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The Literary Digest

A WEEKLY COMPENDIUM OF THE CONTEMPORANEOUS THOUGHT OF THE WORLD.
Vol. XXII., No. 1. Whole No. 559. } NEW YORK, JANUARY 5, 1901. { Price per Copy, 10c.

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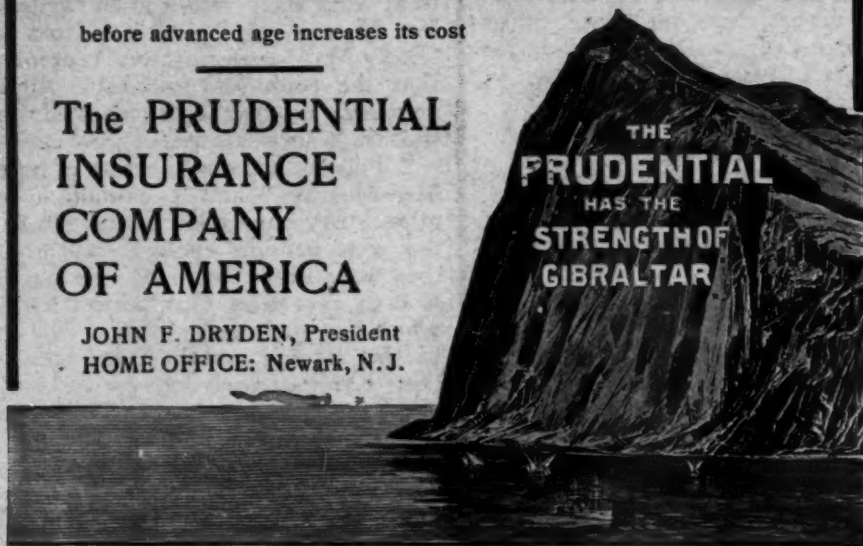
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The Literary Digest

VOL. XXII., No. 1

NEW YORK, JANUARY 5, 1901.

WHOLE NUMBER, 559

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OWING to an unavoidable delay, the Index for Volume XXI. will be mailed with next week's instead of with this week's issue.

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

THE BOER INVASION OF CAPE COLONY.

THE situation in South Africa during the past fortnight is declared by some of the leading English newspapers to be graver than at any other time since President Kruger issued his ultimatum. Whether that be so or not, the invasion of Cape Colony by the Boer forces, accompanied by renewed disaffection and by General Kitchener's proclamation of martial law in the disturbed localities; the aggressiveness of the Boers in the Transvaal and Orange River "Colony"; De Wet's escapes and exploits; and the despatch of yet more reinforcements from England, have all helped to keep the South African conflict very prominently before the public eye. Says the *New York Tribune*:

"When Lord Roberts turned the tide of war northward, and Kimberley and Ladysmith were relieved, and Bloemfontein and Pretoria were captured, it was confidently supposed that thenceforth what little fighting was still to be done would be done on Boer soil or the soil that was once the Boers'. But now, many months later, the tide of war is turned back again to Cape Colony itself. Far within the borders of that colony British railroads are cut and British troops are captured by the Boers, and it is thither that reinforcements are to be hurried. The struggle is not to conquer and pacify the Boer states, but to repel the Boer invasion of the British colony, and, indeed, to prevent the Boers from effecting the conquest of that colony."

On December 14, General Methuen captured a Boer laager, with a large store of supplies, near Lichtenburg, in the Transvaal. Three days later, two Boer commandos in the neighborhood of Thaba-Nchu, in the Orange River "colony," sustained defeat at British hands; but General De Wet, in company with ex-President Steyn and a few followers, succeeded in breaking through the encircling British lines. His feat is described as the "boldest exploit" of the war, and represents his ninth escape from imminent capture. On December 17 began the Boer invasion of Cape Colony, which has caused such discomfiture in Eng-

land and which was the subject of an urgent message from Sir Alfred Milner to the British War Office calling for more troops. The Boer detachments, under command of Botha, Hertzog, and Hasbrouck, occupied strong positions at Philipstown, Colesberg, and Burghers' Dorp, blocking all the British railway connections and even threatening Kimberley itself. At the same time, the Boers developed unexpected strength in the vicinities of Johannesburg, Pretoria, and Winburg. "This purely and distinctively Boer campaign," declares the *Chicago Inter Ocean*, "organized and directed from first to last by Boers, is marvelous; but the marvel increases when it is remembered that the Boer columns have no base lines, no supply depots, no railways, and that Winburg is one hundred and fifty miles from Pretoria; that from Pretoria to Colesberg is fully three hundred miles, and from Colesberg to Kimberley two hundred miles." Lord Kitchener's arrival at Naauwpoort, a few miles from Burghers' Dorp, and the subsequent defeat of the Boer forces near-by at Steynsburg; together with the occupation of Britstown by Thorneycroft's mounted troops and the flight of the Boer commando toward the border, are believed to have broken the strength of the Boer invaders. A series of slight reverses to Boer arms on December 27 was offset by the reported capture of a squadron of yeomanry. A despatch from Naauwpoort on December 28 reports further reverses to the invading commandos, which, however, were reinforced on the next day by two additional detachments.

The situation in Cape Colony at the beginning of the year is not an encouraging one, with De Wet still at large, Kimberley isolated, and little progress being made against the invaders; while to the North the Boers are aggressive and at times victorious. On December 29, Helvetia, a strong British post on the Machadodorp-Lydenburg Railway in the Transvaal, surrendered to the Boers with a loss of fifty killed and wounded and two hundred captured, but was subsequently reoccupied by the British. The British forces under General French met with better success, inflicting considerable loss on 2,500 Boers northwest of Krugersdorp. On December 23, in cooperation with Clements, General French expelled the Boer army from the Magaliesburg range, after fighting that lasted three days and resulted in the capture of the Boer Commandant Kreuse. Later, he occupied Ventersdorp, a few miles to the south. Rumors that the Boers are weakening and ready to surrender are going the rounds of the press, but do not find much credence.

"The plain fact is that, after all their extraordinary effort and their terrible losses, the British campaign is still unsuccessful," observes the *Burlington Hawk-Eye*. "If ten or twenty thousand of the Cape Afrikanders join the hostile forces still in the field," adds the *Philadelphia Bulletin*, "the war will virtually have to be begun over again." On the other hand, the *Louisville Courier-Journal* thinks that Boer vitality is being exaggerated and that recent developments give no cause for alarm. It contends that occasional victories by ambush and strategy are only to be expected, and that trifling advantages of this nature "amount to little in comparison with the immense British resources." Says the *Philadelphia Public Ledger*:

"The situation is somewhat analogous to that of British troops in this country during the dark days of the American Revolution. There is a sufficient British force in South Africa to annihilate the armed Boers if the latter could be made to stand and fight,

but they are as elusive as the American troops were during the Revolution until they had tired out the invaders. There is,

in the end, as, of course, they are bound to do? Why do they not proclaim a general amnesty which will assure the combatant

Boers of their rights as human beings; which will give the Boers, not independence, for that has been rendered impossible, but the certainty that they may resume their occupation without interference or control by the conquerors? That would be not merely the graceful, it would be also the politic thing to do in the present crisis. If such a proclamation were issued, the war would end at once, and all further loss of life and destruction of property would be avoided. The Boers know now, since Kruger has deserted them, that their dream of independence is only a dream. They would undoubtedly be very willing to stop fighting if they could feel that they would be permitted to till their farms and raise their cattle in peace."

That President Kruger's visit to Europe will result in any change in the South African situation is not believed by American papers to be probable, tho the *Detroit News* expresses the belief that it was upon the present disaffection in Cape Colony that Mr. Kruger based his hopes of prolonging the war. In a recent interview with William T. Stead at The Hague, Mr. Kruger declared his hope that even yet he might be successful in winning European intervention. He did not wish, he said, to involve other nations in war. What he asks is that the governments which at The Hague declared their determination to use their efforts to secure amicable settlement of disputes by means of mediation and arbitration

should make a united effort to bring the verdict of the civilized world to bear on Great Britain.

The Sultan and His Cruiser.—All the naval expenditures of Europe combined do not seem to be attracting as much attention in diplomatic circles just now as the Sultan's decision to have a second-class cruiser built in Philadelphia. This diplomatic perturbation does not seem to be due so much to any fear of the cruiser itself as to a fear that Uncle Sam will succeed in separating the Sultan from some of his money (the long-overdue indemnity of \$90,000), a feat that the European powers have been attempting for years in vain. According to the newspaper reports, the Sultan hesitates to pay the indemnity direct, as the other powers would instantly swoop down upon him with demands that their claims be paid too, so he will slip an extra \$90,000 in with the payment of the cruiser, with a hint that it be turned over to the Government. The contract with the Cramp Company was signed just before Christmas in Constantinople, and a special cablegram sent on Christmas Day from that city to the *Philadelphia Press*, with the O. K. of the Turkish censor, said that the signing of the contract was due to the fact that the Sultan was "deeply impressed with the greatness of the American republic," and was "impressed with the tremendous superiority of the American cruiser, as compared with vessels of the same class built in other countries." Not a word about indemnity. Germany, for one, however, did not propose to let the Sublime Porte send something like \$3,000,000 in good money to the United States for the cruiser and the indemnity without a murmur, and, according to report, the German representative at Constantinople asked the Turk if he intended to pay the Cramps before paying a long-due bill of Herr Krupp. Perhaps as a re-



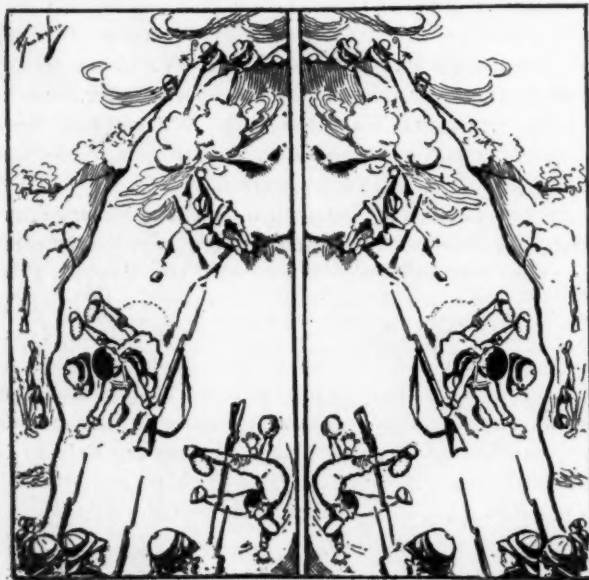
A RECENT PHOTOGRAPH OF MR. KRUGER.

This picture of "Oom Paul" was taken for the *Chicago Tribune* when he was in Paris. It shows his face to be in a marked degree unlike the portraits that have obtained currency in this country. The baby is his great-grandchild, Annie Eloff, and the boy is Gerald Eloff.

however, no prospect of Boer military successes of sufficient magnitude to terminate the war in their favor. Their only hope is to prolong the agitation or the war until Great Britain shall become involved in some other more important military enterprise and shall be obliged to agree upon terms of peace in order to release her large army from South Africa."

The *Chicago Journal* makes a plea for the exercise of clemency on the part of the British even at this late hour. It asks:

"Why do they not recognize the fact that such a war as they are now waging can have no good result, even tho they conquer



December, 1899. December, 1900.
ILLUSTRATING ONE YEAR'S PROGRESS OF THE BOER WAR.
—The *St. Louis Republic*.

sult of this pointed query, the following rather disquieting dispatch, which may signify any one of several different things, emanated from Constantinople on the next morning after Christmas: "It is the general belief that the Cramps' contract for the construction of a cruiser for Turkey was signed without the first payment being made. This view is supported by the fact that the Porte has formally promised to pay nothing to Americans before paying the Krupps, and the Germans have not yet received anything."

CHINA'S AGREEMENT TO THE DEMANDS OF THE POWERS.

ALTHO it is reported that China has agreed to the joint note of the powers, the newspapers, in America at least, remain recalcitrant; and it is clearly fortunate for the diplomats that they are dealing with the Chinese court instead of with the American press. The demands in the note may be briefly stated as follows: Apologies, indemnities, monuments, and punishments to atone for last summer's outrages; "open communication between the capital and the sea" by "the destruction of the forts" and by "the military occupation of certain points" by foreign garrisons; strict measures by the Chinese Government to suppress and prevent anti-foreign uprisings; more liberal treaty and diplomatic relations with the powers; and "interdiction against the importation of arms." A few papers, it is true, commend the note heartily. The *Buffalo Express* observes that the note "commits all the powers irrevocably to the general policy of reestablishing the Manchu dynasty and accepting apologies, indemnities, and individual punishments in place of cessions of territory or more drastic reparation," and adds: "When one recalls the jealousies and suspicions which existed between the powers last summer, the undisguised ambitions for territorial aggrandisement of some of them, and the enormity of the offenses they had to avenge, it must be recognized that this Peking agreement represents a marvelous triumph of reason and good sense." The *St. Paul Dispatch*, too, says: "The conditions are not in any respect such as China can not comply with, and not such as she ought not to comply with. They mark the middle-road between leniency and severity, which is more than has been expected during the progress of negotiations."

There are other papers, however, that do not share this rosy view. The *Chicago Chronicle*, for example, declares that these "are in effect demands that the Chinese Government abdicate its sovereignty and accept a position of subjection to the powers joining in the demands," and it continues:

"This may be justifiable, and it certainly is if the security of foreigners in their lives and property can not be assured by less drastic measures. But we need not attempt to disguise from ourselves the fact that if the demands are conceded, as it is commonly supposed they must be, the joint powers will have asserted and assumed complete mastery over China and will be in a position to carry into effect a scheme of partition whenever they can agree on one which will not involve them in war among themselves."

"This danger of quarreling over the spoils together with the recognized difficulty of governing such a vast number of people, and such a peculiar people as the Chinese, from without, and not any sincere regard for the independence and integrity of the ancient empire, is the only guaranty China has against partition. But perhaps it is a sufficient guaranty for a good many years yet."

The requirement that the Chinese Government stop the importation of arms "will prove fruitless," in the opinion of the *New York Sun*, which goes on to say:

"To prevent the smuggling of prohibited articles, especially if it were winked at by the Chinese authorities, would prove impracticable, and the manufacture of arms and ammunition under munificently remunerated experts might be carried on for years

in Sze-Chuen, or some other remote province, without the fact becoming known to foreign governments in any form more tangible and trustworthy than mere rumor. We do not understand that any Foreign Office proposes to patrol the immense Chinese frontier with its own excise officers, or to station agents of its own in every Chinese province for the purpose of enforcing the prohibition against the manufacture of arms and ammunition. To insist on a condition, the fulfilment of which is plainly out of the question, must have the effect of encouraging the Chinese plenipotentiaries to believe that other concessions on their part would be also nominal."

The *Chicago Evening Post*, another severe critic of the joint note, observes:

"It is gratifying to know that our State Department has informed the powers that, whatever happens as the result of their procrastination and irreconcilable attitude, the United States will not send any troops to China for occupation or enforcement of the proposed peace terms. A legation guard will be maintained by us, but nothing more will be done. The 'concert' has agreed to this condition, and it really had no option. We have



THE POWERS: "Open your mouth and shut your eyes, and we'll give you something to make you wise."
—The Minneapolis Journal.

done our utmost, diplomatically speaking, to promote peace, the open door, and the restoration of good relations with China. If the powers will not listen to reason, the responsibility is at their door. What the outcome will be no finite mind knows."

More than one paper, in the mean time, is exasperated by the reported policy of von Waldersee and the troops under him. "While the foreign ministers in Peking are working for peace and orderly government in China," says the *Philadelphia North American*, "Count von Waldersee is undoing the good they accomplish by continuing his military operations." It continues:

"It is not possible that the anti-foreign sentiment of the natives will be allayed so long as they are made witnesses of the barbarous practises of the foreign soldiery. No assurances that peace is to be reestablished and China left to its own imperial government will have weight with the masses. They will believe what they see with their own eyes and not what they are told about the purposes of the powers in holding interminable conferences in Peking. . . ."

"As long as Waldersee adheres to this plan of campaign the foreign forces must remain in China. Neither the imperial authorities nor the viceroys will feel safe in attempting to preserve order if they are to be punished and their troops exterminated by the foreigners, with whom they are actually cooperating. There can be no betterment of conditions until the Chinese rulers are reintrenched firmly in power. Without their assistance the Chinese question will continue to disturb the world, and China must be filled with foreign garrisons. Nothing could be further

from the desire of the United States, as has been plainly made known ever since the first diplomatic notes were exchanged. The point has now been reached where it would be well to protest against Count von Waldersee's sinister activity, in the common interest of such of the powers as have no heart for a ruinous and prolonged war in the Orient, with all the incalculable possibilities of European complications to follow."

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

MR. ALFRED HARMSWORTH'S idea that the new century will see a great newspaper trust controlling practically the entire newspaper output of the United States commands attention because of the phenomenal success Mr. Harmsworth himself has had in this field. "Alfred Harmsworth," says the *Chicago Tribune*, "is the owner of thirty English periodicals in addition to the *London Daily Mail*. Two months ago it was said he was negotiating for the *London Times*. He began as office-boy on *Tid-Bits* twenty years ago, with a salary of ten shillings per week. In two years he became the editor of a weekly run in conjunction with *The Illustrated London News*. In seven years he had saved \$7,000, and with that sum started his first weekly, *Answers*. He was joined by his brothers; and one by one he has added to his publications until their combined circulation has reached the total of 15,000,000 copies a week. Among them is *Harmsworth Magazine*, which alone has a circulation of 1,000,000. His great success is due to the introduction of American methods into his publications. Mr. Harmsworth is the son of a lawyer. He is thirty-four years old, and in twenty years has made \$20,000,000 out of his publications." Mr. Harmsworth's main objections to the daily of to-day are that it is "hopelessly clumsy in shape, verbose as to matter, and most imperfect as a record." He asserts (writing in the January *North American Review*) that "by the use of improved machinery it would be possible to issue the newspaper of the future in what is obviously its proper form—a small, portable, and neatly indexed publication of the size of a page of *The North American Review*, and of the bulk and appearance of the *New York Outlook*," which latter journal he pays a high compliment, calling it "the best of weekly reviews." "There are abundant signs," declares Mr. Harmsworth, "that we are witnessing the birth of developments in newspaper enter-

prise which will make the past look insignificant by contrast"; then noting Mr. Hearst's three papers in New York, Chicago, and San Francisco, Mr. Pulitzer's two in New York and St. Louis, Mr. Bennett's two in New York and Paris, the *Galveston News*, published simultaneously in Galveston and Dallas, and his own two "simultaneous" papers in London and Manchester, he says:

"My idea of the newspaper of the twentieth century may be thus expressed in brief. Let us suppose one of the great American newspapers—say *The Sun*, of New York, in my opinion perhaps the best arranged of all American newspapers—under the control of a man of the journalistic ability of Delane, the greatest of the former editors of the *London Times*, certainly the greatest political editor in the history of journalism, backed by an organization as perfect as that of the Standard Oil Company, and issued simultaneously each morning in (say) New York, Boston, Chicago, Pittsburg, St. Louis, Philadelphia, and other points in America; or at London, Liverpool, Manchester, Bristol, Edinburgh, Belfast, and Newcastle, in Great Britain. Is it not obvious that the power of such a paper might become such as we have not yet seen in the history of the press? And would not such a journal effectually revive the waning influence of the newspaper upon the life and thought of the nation?"

"The power to undersell," Mr. Harmsworth predicts, "would drive many newspapers into the combination, and little by little rival newspapers would be so weakened that, where they did not die a natural death, their purchase or absorption would be a comparatively easy and inexpensive step," until the managers of the combination "would hold the newspaper monopoly of the land." This done, the effect of such a tremendously influential journal on contemporary affairs would appear. Says Mr. Harmsworth:

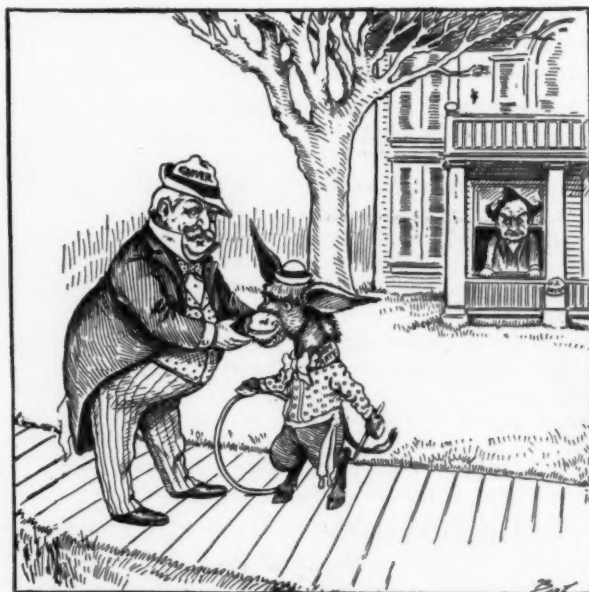
"By the method of simultaneous publication the provincial purchaser will be placed on an equal footing with the dweller in the capital. As things are, he must either be content with an inferior local production, or wait till late in the day, when the great newspaper arrives by the mail or comes on the cars. Under the new régime he will find the national journal on his breakfast-table.

"In my opinion, the newspaper that I am describing will be able to maintain a higher tone and literary standard than is usually possible now. It will be able to ignore what may be called 'non-news.' I refer to the trivial and unimportant items and to the unedifying matter which every editor heartily longs to omit. Critics unacquainted with the press often ask why all this un-



"GIVE THE RANK AND FILE A CHANCE."

—The Salt Lake Herald.



IS THIS TO BE ANOTHER CASE OF KIDNAPING?

—The Minneapolis Journal.

CARTOON VIEWS OF

necessary matter is not cast into the waste-paper basket. The answer lies in the existing rivalry and competition between newspapers. If an editor omits all mention of some sensational but unelevating police case, for example, he knows full well that his rival will insert it, and will subsequently boast about his superior news-service! No editor can afford to let even the most superficial critic imagine that he has been caught napping. On the other hand, a newspaper possessing a monopoly could absolutely boycott all such items. I lay strong emphasis upon this, as it affords a solution to a problem that has long troubled all journalists who seek the best interests of the public.

"Such a newspaper could maintain a high literary tone, and thus become an educative institution of the greatest value. This is true already of the best journals in most lands, but there is another side to the question. The existence of a gutter press can not altogether be ignored. Neither can we afford to neglect the fact that a considerable section of the public patronizes it. The new régime of journalism will promptly put an end to it, and will thus confer an additional benefit on the nation."

Some reader may be asking what side this great national newspaper would take in party politics. Mr. Harmsworth replies:

"I do not think it would be called upon to assume a mere party attitude at all. . . . I think that one of the good influences of a great newspaper monopoly would be seen in its tendency to minimize political differences and to bring about unity of thought and action. Much of the party feeling of the present day, on both sides of the Atlantic, is fed and fostered by certain inflammatory newspapers that depend upon political agitation for their circulation. This consideration would not affect the simultaneous journal, which would be free to advocate the best interests of the country, and could do so with an influence far wider in its scope than has hitherto been possible. . . ."

"We thus arrive practically at government by newspapers, but so long as that is only another name for government by the people, no one need be alarmed at the outlook."

The *New York Times* thinks that one great objection to Mr. Harmsworth's plan would be the impossibility of finding an editor able to manage the tremendous newspaper that is proposed. Says *The Times*:

"No mere Delane would come up to the requirements of an editorship that was to make public opinion for 76,000,000 people. The hand of transcendent genius should grasp that pen. Such an editor would be cheap at \$10,000 a week, say half a million dollars a year. The trust managers would be very mean if they did not pay him that salary. He would be chicken-hearted if he did not make them pay it. There are men in this town whose annual income is two or three times that modest honorarium who, men-

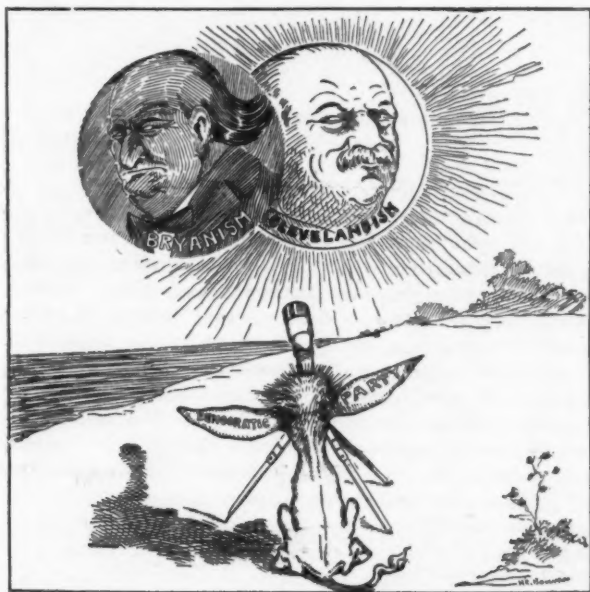
tally and morally, in respect to judgment and in respect to capacity, are simply unfit to be office-boys to an editor of such amplitude. But a want advertisement offering two million dollars a year for such an editor would fail to evoke him from his holy cell. There would be answers to the 'ad.,' shiploads of them, but subpoenas would not reach nor search-warrants discover the man for that place."

Up to the time of our going to press, however, the editor of the *New York Times* is the only editor who has confessed his inability to fill the position.

A CENTURY'S GROWTH OF POPULATION AND COMMERCE.

A SURVEY of the world's advance in material prosperity during the hundred years just past only makes more clear what economists have long been noting in special articles from time to time—the tremendous strides of the United States toward world-supremacy in commerce and industry. In a valuable supplement to its issue of Friday of last week the *New York Journal of Commerce* makes an economic retrospect of the century which shows that while Europe has gained in population one hundred and sixty per cent. during the past hundred years, the United States has gained about one thousand four hundred and fifty per cent. Yet Europe's gain was unprecedented. During the sixteenth century Europe gained only twenty-seven per cent., during the seventeenth century only twenty-three per cent., and during the eighteenth a little over fifty per cent. Says the compiler of the supplement, who signs himself simply "W. D.":

"During the past century, the conditions favoring the growth of population in the European nations have been more propitious than in any previous period of history. The unparalleled progress in scientific discovery; the wide application of those discoveries to the productive industries; the substitution of steam-power for manual labor; the consequent reduction in the costs of industrial production and therefore in the prices of commodities; the shortening of the hours of labor concurrently with the rise in wages; and the progress in medical science and in the sanitary care of homes, villages, and cities—these great advances in the ramifications of the public life have led to a higher standard of living and of general health and constituted the average man more capable of production and reproduction and more competent to support and utilize the new increments of each successive generation. The result of these conditions is seen not only in an increased ratio of births, but also in an extension of the average



THE PASSING OF THE ECLIPSE.

—The Minneapolis Tribune.

MR. CLEVELAND'S ADVICE.



"GIVING THE RANK AND FILE A CHANCE."

—The Atlanta Constitution.

period of human life. Official returns show that 'the expectation of life' is now three years longer in the United Kingdom than it was for the period of seventeen years ending 1854; whilst compared with the beginning of the century, the gain must be considerably greater. In France, the span of life, in the eighteenth century, averaged twenty-six years and two months; whilst the statistician Lombard estimated the average term of life there at forty in the year 1868. A similar experience has occurred in other European countries."

"These great gains during the past century, we are told, 'express as no other data could the potency of the recreative processes that have been energizing the civilized populations of the last century. . . . History thus confutes the Malthusian doctrine that the realization of a happy society will always be hindered by the miseries consequent upon the tendency of population to increase faster than the means of subsistence—a dogma which still lingers among a limited class of pessimistic economists.'"

A migration unprecedented in history has also taken place in the last hundred years in the departure of 36,500,000 people (equal to the population of England, France, or Austria in 1880) from Europe for other shores. Half of them came to the United States. The United Kingdom contributed 10,760,000 to the outflow; Germany, 7,531,000; Italy, 4,715,000; France, 1,668,000, and the Scandinavian countries 2,370,000. Our own population, of course, is made up entirely of emigrants from the Eastern hemisphere and their descendants. "This creation of a nation of 76,000,000 out of the redundant populations of Europe," says the writer, "is one of the most striking among the great developments of the century." Immigrants are now reaching our shores at the rate of more than 1,000 a day.

Turning now to the world's commerce, there appears a record even more striking. "The surest criterion of the status of a civilization," says "W. D.," "is afforded by the condition of its commerce; and, judging from that standpoint, the progress of mankind—especially of the white races—during the past century is found to be without parallel in the world's history." No adequate records of internal trade are kept, and it is only within the last seventy years that governments have kept systematic records of imports and exports; but as the present great industrial period has had its rise and growth within this period, the figures from 1840 are sufficient to show the rate of progress. The foreign trade of the United Kingdom during that time has increased from \$851,000,000 to \$3,820,000,000, or an increase of 350 per cent., while the population was increasing 50 per cent.; the foreign trade of France has grown from \$288,400,000 to \$1,510,500,000, or 424 per cent., while the population was growing 15 per cent., a still more surprising record; while the commerce of Germany has grown from \$263,000,000 to \$2,078,500,000, or 690 per cent., with a concurrent growth of 64 per cent. in population. Russia's foreign trade has grown only from \$124,400,000 to \$643,000,000 despite an immense increase of population. "Measured by the mere standard of brute force," says the writer, "the Czar's empire may present to the popular eye a very imposing spectacle; estimated from an economic standpoint, it is found the most inert and least civilized of all the European states. Russia leaves a humiliating record in the nineteenth century, and enters the twentieth with an equipment very inadequate to her pretensions."

Crossing the Atlantic, one finds that the foreign trade of our own country has grown since 1840 from \$221,200,000 to \$2,243,900,000, or over 1,000 per cent. The writer notes that our exports are second only to those of the United Kingdom; but figures issued a few days ago by the United States Treasury Bureau of Statistics show that our exports now lead the world, surpassing those of the United Kingdom in the first eleven months of 1900 by \$5,500,000. Our exports in 1840 were less than one-fourth of those of the United Kingdom. In 1898 the United States took the lead, but dropped to second place again in 1899. In the iron

trade the writer notes that "the United States have risen to the foremost rank, their production in 1899 having constituted 36 per cent. of the world's supply and being 4,689,000 tons, or 58 per cent., greater than that of the United Kingdom in 1898. Great Britain has failed to maintain her former ratio of increase, her gain between 1890 and 1898 having been only 727,000 tons. The increase of Germany, within the same period, amounts to 2,575,000 tons; and even Russia shows a gain of 1,296,000 tons. Half a century since, Great Britain produced the better half of the world's supply; now her contribution is only 22.50 per cent." In the production of coal, too, the United States has passed the United Kingdom and now occupies the foremost place. In shipping the United States holds second place, with Great Britain far in the lead, and in railroads our country has more miles than all the nations of Europe combined. No other nation in the world has 30,000 miles, while the United States has over 186,000.

Yet these splendid evidences of material progress can not hide the fact that not all the spears and swords have yet been beaten into pruning-hooks and plowshares. Says the writer:

"The last hundred years of material progress has been unattended by any equal gain in moral progress. Rather, the marvelous increase of productiveness and wealth has served to cultivate the sentiments of selfishness, acquisitiveness, ambition, and jealousy which appear to lie at the root of the worst of human hatreds. It therefore follows that an era of great material advance, unless accompanied by an equal progress in moral and religious forces, is liable to develop moral degeneracy, with all its destructive tendencies. . . . The most impressive lesson bequeathed by the dead century is the comparative impotence of mere trade and wealth to develop international amities and to elevate the spiritual capacities of man. . . ."

"During the last one hundred and seven years, the world has sacrificed, in round numbers, 5,000,000 of lives and \$22,603,000,000 in money to the purposes of active war, with all the attendant sorrows and miseries of the frightful slaughter; to say nothing of the still larger loss of wealth and the diversion of able-bodied men from productive employments to the maintenance of fleets and standing armies. What a terrible discount upon the blessings and glory of the civilization on which Christendom is so wont to vaunt! How much do we need to unlearn in the new century before we can justly boast of the humane quality of our proudest institutions!"

ARMY PAPERS ON HAZING AT WEST POINT.

WHILE waiting for the report of the War Department's committee that is now investigating the hazing of Cadet Booz at West Point in 1898, from which, it is charged, his recent death resulted, it is interesting to note the comments of the military press on hazing in the academy. *The Army and Navy Journal* (New York) says:

"It should always be remembered that we are training young men at the national academies for command, and the foundation of a character fitted to exercise authority is respect for authority and respect for the rights and the freedom of others. Hazing is an exercise of lynch law, which, however worthy its objects or beneficial its results, can not be admitted in any form or to any extent in a military institution controlled by law. Whatever the remedy for it may be, it must be applied without fear or favor. The national academies, and especially the Military Academy, are always rowing against so strong a tide of public sentiment that it is necessary to sacrifice remorselessly any of the crew who can not be depended upon to obey orders."

The Army and Navy Register (Washington) is even more outspoken. It declares:

"Cadets who would be guilty of imposing on a defenseless young man and perpetrating all sorts of heathenish and diabolical tricks, such as are described as having been visited upon Booz, are not fit for the United States army. It is a mistaken idea, which some officers may entertain and which evidently

many cadets honor in observance, that it is gentlemanly and brave to nab upon a cadet and put him through all sorts of curious maneuvers and finish off the carnival with something which shall cause personal discomfort, if not physical distress. In the case of Booz the attack is said to have been sufficiently severe to have caused a fatal malady. There is no written or unwritten law of cadetship which would make such an action creditable to the participants. If an investigation shall disclose that the cowardly practise of hazing is attaining any such dangerous proportions at West Point, we have a right to be ashamed of the young men who are engaged in such miserable outlawry. If there is no truth in the charges which have been brought by the Booz family, it is proper that the cadets and the institution at West Point be fully exonerated from the smirch of the outrage. It is conceivable that the young man has made charges which can not be proven and which had no justification in fact. It would have been wise, however, to have made a full inquiry into the matter without delay and without the demand from Congress."

THE CENTURY'S PROGRESS OF THE AMERICAN WOMAN.

THAT the American woman has invaded new fields of activity during the century just closed is a matter of fact; whether or not this invasion has been a good thing for the woman and for the fields of activity which she has invaded is a matter of opinion. Mrs. Flora McDonald Thompson, who has herself

been for years a regular contributor to some of the leading newspapers in America, and who is at present conducting the "News of the World" department in *Harper's Bazar*, thinks that woman's true place is in the home, and she deplores the American woman's departures from domesticity as a gloomy sign for the future of the country. It is not alone the large number of divorces in the United



Photograph by Rockwood, N. Y., Copyright, 1899.

MRS. ELIZABETH CADY STANTON.

States (328,716 in twenty years) that arouses her foreboding. Writing in *The North American Review* she says:

"That the economically ideal organization of the American family has been overthrown by the aggressive spirit of the 'new' woman appears with amazing clearness. . . . Over seventeen per cent. of the whole number of persons employed in all occupations are women. Furthermore, the United States commissioner of labor has found the number of women so employed to be constantly increasing, and that at the expense of men; the percentage of increase of women, in every given instance, showing a corresponding decrease of men. In this connection, still another suggestive fact appears in the statistics of the United States Department of Labor. In proportion as women advance in men's industries, and thus cause the retirement of men, the latter engage in domestic labor and personal service. The American woman competes with man, not alone to his disadvantage, but to his degradation.

"Involved with this chaos in the industrial order, revolution with reference to sex constantly advances in the domain of American politics. We have woman-suffrage to some extent

existing in a number of States and in several Territories of the United States, and absolutely unrestricted woman-suffrage in four States—making a total of almost three fifths of the whole number of States in the Union which have in some way yielded political power to woman. Also we have the American woman clamoring for every office in the gift of the people, from President to police-court justice."

Mrs. Thompson's article was published in November, and another issue of the magazine was not allowed to pass without a reply. Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who called the first Woman's Rights Convention (held in Seneca Falls, N. Y., in 1848) and whose eightieth birthday was celebrated in 1895 in the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City by 3,000 delegates from women's societies throughout the country, takes up her pen in answer, and in the December issue she champions the cause of the independent woman. "Mrs. Thompson," she says, "attributes the increasing number of divorces to the moral degeneracy of woman; whereas it is the result of higher moral perceptions as to the mother's responsibilities to the race. . . . With higher intelligence woman has learned the causes that produce idiots, lunatics, criminals, degenerates of all kinds and degrees, and she is no longer a willing partner to the perpetuation of disgrace and misery." Turning from this phase of the question she continues:

"Virtue and subjection, with this writer, seem to be synonymous terms. Did our grandmother at the spinning-wheel occupy a higher position in the scale of being than Maria Mitchell, professor of astronomy at Vassar College? Did the farmer's wife at the washtub do a greater work for our country than the Widow Green, who invented the cotton-gin? Could Margaret Fuller, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Frances E. Willard, Mary Lyon, Clara Barton have done a better work churning butter or weeding their onion-beds on their respective farms than the grand work they did in literature, education, and reform? Could Fannie Kemble, Ellen Tree, Charlotte Cushman, or Ellen Terry (if we may mention English as well as American women) have contributed more to the pleasure of their day and generation had they spent their lives at the spinning-wheel? No! Progress is the law, and the higher development of woman is one of the important steps that have been achieved."

TOPICS IN BRIEF.

WHEN franchises are distributed in South Africa, General Buller is entitled to the ferry privilege on the Tugela.—*The Memphis Commercial Appeal*.

THOSE persons who can see no good in Mr. Bryan's latest move evidently overlook the fact that he could have made it a daily paper.—*The Washington Post*.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL GRIGGS insists that the Philippines can be deemed foreign territory. That is just what Aguinaldo has argued all the time.—*The Chicago Record*.

PITIFABLE.—Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt has whittled New York society down to 100. This is an inclement season to leave 300 shivering in the vestibule.—*The Chicago Evening Post*.



THE CONSTITUTION TO THE SUPREME COURT: "Shall I follow him?"
—*The Minneapolis Times*.

LETTERS AND ART.

THE REVIVAL OF MACAULAY.

FROM time to time we have called attention to signs which point to a return of Lord Macaulay to some of his old-time favor both with the public and the critics. Apparently no author in modern literature has been without his period of obscurity, following a period of literary effulgence; and Macaulay has been



ROTHLEY TEMPLE, MACAULAY'S BIRTHPLACE.

no exception to this rule. In spite of his almost unrivaled brilliancy, his limpid clarity of style, and the vast mass of picturesque and highly valuable information crowded into the pages of his "Essays" and "History of England," it has been the fashion for some decades now to sneer at him as not much better than a shallow rhetorician. This fashion perhaps came in with Matthew Arnold's criticism of Macaulay's essay on Milton, and has been constantly reechoed since by lesser writers.

November 25, which was the five hundredth anniversary of Chaucer's death, was the one hundredth anniversary of Macaulay's birth.

One of the most appreciative of the recent articles relating to him appears in the *New York Times* in connection with the publication of an attractive new American edition of his works. Macaulay, remarks the writer, well merits a rehabilitation:

"A deal of nonsense has been written about him of late by men who could spend their time much better in studying the secrets of his eloquence. Macaulay was essentially a literary writer. There is no smell of the hack in the polite perfume of his style. It is the essence of lettered refinement, and those who sneer at it on account of its oratorical sonority or its careful balance of phrase and period might go further and fare worse in their search after a model. It is a rare thing indeed to find in the pages of this master of words a sentence whose meaning is not absolutely clear and manifest to the reader. As Dr. McCosh said of De Tocqueville, 'His thoughts lie in his style like pebbles in a clear brook.' Writing whose meaning may be understood is common, but writing whose meaning can not be misunderstood is not so plentiful that dilettanti can afford to sniff at the elegance and grace with which Macaulay contrives to surround his direct and unmistakable statements.

"But this is not the sum and substance of the matter. Making of words a medium clear as glass, he gave to his sentences also the brilliancy of crystal. Writing so that he who runs may read, he also wrote so that no reader would run, but would rather pause in admiration before the perfection of the diction, the balance of the phrases, the reposeful finish of the periods. Yet there is no atmosphere of idle evening in these sentences. They have the glow of a summer noon and the sonorous swing of the eternal surf. They sing themselves into the ear in prose poetry of amazing strength and solidity. They are English prose raised to its highest level of eloquence, and they make reading which stirs the blood. Pick where you will, and you find the vital, fluent, oratorical sentences rolling their resistless tide, the surface as smooth and polished as that of an inland river, the

body as rich and piquant as the sea itself. . . . Free from turgidity, free from that pitiable grasping after weird words and contorted phrasing which mars the decadent styles of Macaulay's chief critics, free from dubiousness and from foreign influences, that pure and eloquent English style swims the sea of five deep volumes. And this is but a random choice. For it would have been easy to recall to the reader that magnificent burst of historical imagination which recreated the scene of the trial of Warren Hastings or that equally noble flight of fancy which glorified the art of history itself. The vein of oratorical eloquence which sends its rich flood through all Macaulay's works was born in him, and his biographer Trevelyan records that when through the corridors of the House ran the whisper 'Macaulay is up,' they speedily emptied themselves and every member sought his seat. Transferred from the written page to the speaking voice the Macaulayan style becomes Ciceronian in its splendors and its dignity. It glows constantly, and ever and anon flashes into lightning points, as in the query, 'Every Stoic was a Stoic; but in Christendom where is the Christian?'

"The potency of this elegant force, the polished ease of the literary master, is felt in all Macaulay's writings. The history is a series of brilliant word-pictures, painted with such skill that one feels in them the throbbing of England's mighty pulse. The essays gleam and dazzle with pearls of literary thought and diamonds of literary expression. And in the 'Lays of Ancient Rome' one finds a poesy which reaches its purpose by the same means; for the clank of the Roman knight's golden spurs rings in the rhythmic stride of his verse, and the war lyrics glitter with helm and cuirass and all the splendid panoply of the legionaries that swept the valleys of Cis-Alpine Gaul, leveled Carthage with the sands of Africa, and throned the Roman eagles on the hills of Thrace."

A BRITISH VIEW OF AMERICAN POETRY.

THE publication of Mr. Stedman's "American Anthology" is taken by the *London Academy* (December 1) as the text for an interesting discourse on American poetry. *The Academy's* reviewer speaks in a complimentary way of Mr. Stedman's work in compiling and editing this volume, and expresses the opinion that the work "could not have been done more carefully and conscientiously"; but the reviewer is not enthusiastic over the output of our bards as indicated in the anthology. He says:

"It is clear that America has no distinctive national note in poetry: the time is gone by when people vaguely looked for something strikingly novel, gigantic, commanding, unprecedented, from the 'young nation' of the vast territory. We know now that she is not young, but old—a transplanted England, born to age. And her verse is English verse, with all the matured and over-matured characteristics of later English verse, when her verse is at its best. The effect produced by this volume, it must frankly be said, is not satisfying, nor impressive. It does not seem that in poetry America can, or will, find her own, and take rank by her motherland, even by the later England of Tennyson and his successors. An anthology of the English poets since Tennyson would, we think, make a better show, on the whole, than this complete anthology of American poets. That is not a hopeful thing to say; an ungracious saying, perhaps, but necessary. The especially depressing conviction which the book forces on us is that the advance of American poetry has not been sustained. There seemed more than hope for a nation which had produced such a group as that of Poe, Emerson, Lowell, and Longfellow. If another Emerson were unlikely, or even another Poe, it seemed no unattainable ambition to advance beyond Longfellow. But America has not even maintained the level of Longfellow. Among the later poets none stands prominently forth but Lanier and, in a minor degree, the minute grace of Father Tabb. The overwhelmingly materialistic genius of America is, we fear, chilling, if not killing, to poetry. It looks strongly as tho the poetic gift were flickering down, rather than spreading and broadening. Sad and strange that the wind of those free prairies and vastly splendid mountains can not fan to greatness the flame which feeds on the souls of all

great nations, from Palestine to England, from Italy to Persia and the Himalayas!

"There seems no lack of singers, if there be a lack of great singers. From a survey of these voluminous pages one gets an impression that almost every cultivated man or woman in America must be writing poetry—and publishing it. But all these swallows will not make a summer. It is a democracy of song indeed, where no man is better—or much worse—than his neighbors. There is a fatal air of level accomplishment over these pages; mere accomplishment, uninspired and undistinguished. The bed-roll of names somehow has a depressing effect—Tudor Jenks, and Titus Munson Coane [Coan], and Edith Matilda Thomas, and so forth, and so forth. Mr. Stedman's necessity of being historically comprehensive has forced on him the inclusion of a host of names for which there is no other real justification; but the result is a frowning wilderness of mediocrity, which nowise improves as we near the present day; and the heart of the reviewer sinks in this waterless land. As to the influences governing American poetry, they are mostly those of the period from Wordsworth to Tennyson. There is no hint of influence from the Rossetti and Swinburne movement, so powerful in England; while Lanier is the only one who has gone back to the Elizabethans and the seventeenth century. The poets of the early American days, are decidedly old-fashioned, tho mild, very mild. Tho Mr. Stedman zealously champions him, we are not among those who are exhilarated by the chaste muse of William Cullen Bryant, the first considerable poet of America. Then you have specimens of James Gates Percival, who was called the American Somebody-or-other—they were all American Burnses or Shelleys or Miltons, etc., in those days—and was laughed at by Lowell. You have Nathaniel Parker Willis, whose stilted fame is now decently interred, and many another. But you come at last to the opulent season of Emerson, Longfellow, Whittier, Poe, and Holmes, and forget your journeying in the desert."

THE ECLIPSE OF GEORGE ELIOT.

THE name of George Eliot, only a few years ago on every lip and the theme of innumerable articles—even of sermons—is now, it has been lately noted, scarcely the subject of a literary allusion. Tho nearly every writer has a period of partial obscurity after the period when the particular message he has for the world has been appropriated, yet no such almost total eclipse can be observed in connection with any of the great writers with whom George Eliot has been unhesitatingly associated in rank—Scott, or Thackeray, or Dickens, or Charlotte Brontë.

Mr. William Crary Brownell, the essayist and critic, who writes in *Scribner's Magazine* (December), of which he was formerly editor, attributes this surprising change of popular sentiment, which he calls "one of the most curious of current literary phenomena," largely to the predominance of intellect over emotion and all other phases of human character in her works. Altho the psychological, analytical type of fiction was a powerful attraction to the public while it had the force of novelty in the hands of this first and greatest of psychological novelists, yet characters delineated from this point of view are, the writer says, less permanently interesting to the mass of readers.

But George Eliot is, the writer thinks, likely to remain a unique and permanent figure at the head of psychological novelists. Mr. Hardy and Mr. James have in some subtleties and nuances of *genre* equaled her, but she still remains the master-spirit, he says. It is even possible to believe that with the great increase of interest in psychological and metaphysical problems now evident throughout the world, she may again attain to something like her former place, altho it was the rationalizing intellect, and not the spirit, that was uppermost in her treatment of life, and it is the latter of these that is the lode-star of the new mysticism. Mr. Brownell says:

"The drama itself of George Eliot's world is largely an intel-

lectual affair. The soul, the temperament, the heart—in the scriptural sense—the whole nature plays a subordinate part. The plot turns on what the characters think. The characters are individualized by their mental complexions; their evolution is a mental one; they change, develop, deteriorate in consequence of seeing things differently. Their troubles are largely mental perplexities; in her agony of soul Romola goes to Savonarola and Gwendolen to Deronda for light, not heat. The prescriptions they receive are also terribly explicit—addressed quite exclusively to the reason and wholly unlike that obtained by Nicodemus 'by night.' The courtship of Esther and Felix Holt is mainly an interchange of 'views.' There are exceptions—notably Maggie Tulliver and Dorothea, the two characters which have been called, with ample reason, one may guess, autobiographic. But the exceptions accentuate the rule. As a rule the atmosphere of each novel is saturated with thought. Certainly nowhere else in fiction is there any such apotheosis of intellect both express and implied.

"It was doubtless in thinking mainly of George Eliot, whose aptest pupil he was, that more than a score of years ago Mr. Hardy spoke of fiction as having 'taken a turn for better or worse, for analyzing rather than depicting character and emotion.' It was certainly George Eliot who more than any other practitioner gave fiction this turn—a turn still followed, with whatever modifications, and illustrated in all serious examples of the art, so much so that a novel without the psychological element is almost as much of a solecism as a picture with a conventional *chiaroscuro*."

Allied with George Eliot's chief artistic limitation—her exclusive devotion to the intellectual aspect of life and character—is a moral limitation, Mr. Brownell points out, namely, her failure to recognize sufficiently "that subtle dynamic impulse of the will which the psychologists leave the theologians to describe as 'the new birth,' and which as a matter of fact plays a tremendous rôle in the drama of cause and effect . . . a common enough and prominent enough factor in the universal moral problem to reward if not exact the attention of the artist who is also a moralist":

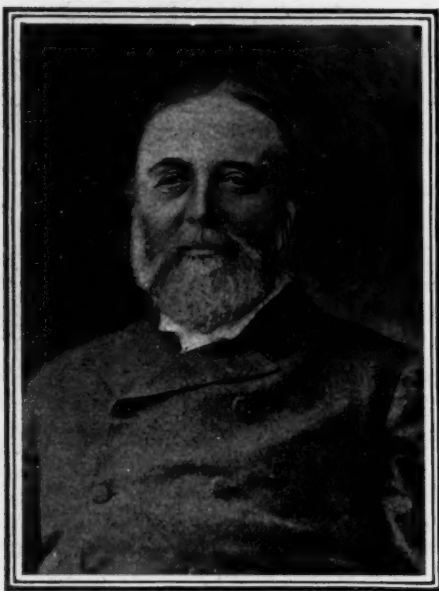
"Its exclusion from the consideration of so eminent a moralist as George Eliot is undoubtedly due to the lack of imagination and the predominance of intellect already noted in her genius and her practise. It is itself closely allied with mysticism, no doubt; it belongs, perhaps, in the domain of mysticism. And to deal with the mystic, or even to entertain an inclination to deal with it, necessitates the possession of the imaginative faculty and its cordial, unembarrassed, spontaneous activity, undeterred by fear of error and unrestrained by backward or side glances at the quite otherwise seductive data of ascertained truth. There is no shade of mysticism in George Eliot's moral philosophy, whose tenets and whose logic proceed from the processes of the mind and have little relation with 'the vision' without which, says the wise man, 'the people perish.' Everything is taken on the side of it that appeals to the intelligence. Gwendolen comes to grief because she does not realize that domination is impracticable—because, in a word, of intellectual blindness. Grandcourt's baseness is an intellectual perversion, not a sensuous one. The story of Tito's mere repugnance to what is unpleasant becoming at last readiness for any crime is the story of a moral decline exhibited in a succession of mental phases. Even error is a kind of alienation and sin essentially a mistake. The notion of 'dying to' it nowhere appears—I do not mean *pro forma*, in which shape perhaps it belongs less to literature than to dogma, but by implication. We are still in the penumbra, one would say, of the Old Testament. The natural results of error, the natural and integral sanctions of morality are convincingly, refreshingly, and stimulatingly considered to the exclusion of the preternatural; but the natural content of religion is quite neglected. Here, as elsewhere, she takes the scientific, the intellectual view of the phenomena which compose her material, and with her the mind in this field excludes the soul as in the field of art it does the imagination.

"But with whatever limitations, her position as a classic is doubtless assured. There are types of human character on which she has fixed the image in striking individual incarnation for all time; and her philosophy is of an ethical cogency and

stimulant veracity that make her fiction one of the notablest contributions ever made to the criticism of life. It is none the less true, to be sure, that her survival will mean the surmounting of such obstacles to enduring fame as a limited imaginative faculty, a defective sense of art, and an inordinate aggrandizement of the purely intellectual element in human character, which implies an imperfect sense of the completeness of human nature and the comprehensiveness of human life. But no other novelist gives one such a poignant, sometimes such an insupportable, sense that life is immensely serious, and no other, in consequence, is surer of being read, and read indefinitely, by serious readers."

A MODERN WANDERING SCHOLAR.

THE death of Mr. Thomas Davidson last September has called attention to the unique personality of an American scholar not widely known, yet lately pronounced by one of the leading British reviews to have been "one of the dozen most learned men on this planet." He was born in Scotland in 1840,



THE LATE THOMAS DAVIDSON.

and after being graduated from the University of Aberdeen as first scholar and as Greek prizeman, he came to this country in 1866 and settled first in Cambridge, and later in Northern New York. The *London Spectator* gives the following account of him:

"Living a quiet, retired life on a mountain farm in the Adirondacks, the most unworldly of men, caring absolutely nothing for money or fame, the late Thomas David-

son, whose very name is probably unknown to most of our readers, was one of the most gifted and remarkable men of the latter half of this century. To enumerate his writings, learned and important tho they are, is to convey no idea of a spiritual personality to whom some (and among them the present writer) owe not a little. It was not the opinions of this 'scholar-gipsy' which influenced his friends, for he was the most inconsistent of men, passing through phase after phase of philosophic thought, and contesting in the afternoon the very doctrines he had urged in the morning. Whimsical, vehement, impatient, his satire and argument flowing like a torrent, and his dogmatic spirit sometimes carrying him to lengths he had never intended, yet to know Thomas Davidson was to love him.

"Thomas Davidson would have delighted Goethe; the 'Wanderjahre' of Wilhelm Meister was Davidson's own life. He, too, held that 'to give room for wandering the world was made so wide.' As thorough an American as tho he had been born within the shadow of Bunker Hill, he nevertheless was so classic in feeling that he yearned for the 'palms and temples of the South,' and he had his wish gratified. Attached, largely through Longfellow's generous influence, to the examination department of Harvard University, he soon had the opportunity of repairing to Athens, where he studied Greek archeology. And here it may be said that perhaps Davidson was one of the greatest linguists of his age. Well grounded in Greek and Latin (able, after the good old mediæval plan, to speak as well as to read Latin), he obtained complete mastery of modern Greek within a few months of reaching Athens. He could make a speech in that language as easily as did Mr. Gladstone in the Ionian Islands. He spoke and read French, German, Italian, Spanish, Norse, with absolute ease. He did his philosophic thinking in German rather

than in his own tongue. He acquired later a complete proficiency in Hebrew and Arabic, and was fairly well versed in Czech, Russian, and Magyar. He never forgot a single word he had ever learned. His admiring friends tested him on one occasion in Greek. He never missed once, giving not only the ordinary but exceptional meanings, and stating in what authors they were to be found. He could repeat most of Aristotle's *Ethics* from end to end in the original. He knew word for word that difficult second part of 'Faust' which at times baffles even German professors; but his supreme love was Dante.

"It is rather dangerous to be a great linguist, for the chances are that you will be nothing else—like Cardinal Mezzofanti. But Thomas Davidson was a contradiction to all rules. Tho he missed being a great thinker, he had a powerful philosophic mind. Mediæval in his conception of (and we might say in his impersonation of) the wandering scholar, Davidson became mediæval in his philosophy; he took up the study of Thomas Aquinas. Outside the ranks of the profound Catholic scholars, there are few who can say they have mastered the 'Summa'; one of those few was Mr. Davidson. One must not hold him finally to anything, but at the time he wrote his learned work on Rosmini, the modern Catholic antagonist of the Jesuits, he certainly believed that Aquinas, based on the philosophy of Aristotle, had come nearer to solving the great riddle of being than any other thinker. In addition to the work on Rosmini, which is scarcely appreciated in England, Mr. Davidson must have some credit for stimulating the Pope in the preparation of his celebrated encyclical on Aquinas. There are not, it is safe to say, many laymen who have had three hours' confidential talk on philosophy with Leo XIII., but Thomas Davidson was one. He was also intimate with some of the religious orders, and knew not a little of the inner life of the Catholic Church, with whose art and devotion he sympathized as much as he detested its politics. He loved Italy as a man loves his bride, and in Rome he foregathered with the veteran Mamiani and others who had helped in the 'risorgimento.'

"Thomas Davidson was not quite a saint, but he loved much and he shall be forgiven much. He could have kept Socrates company over the amphora while the rest were under the table, and could have gone forth to teach with as clear a head. A unique character, built on a solid Scotch foundation, with the bright and eager tone of the American, he was the best example in our time of the mediæval wandering scholar."

A GREAT "HISTORICAL ROMANCE."

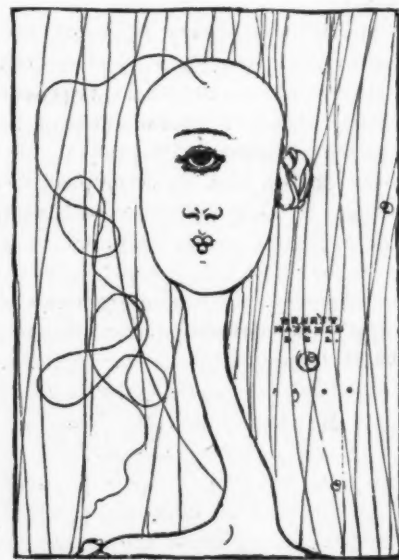
MR. HOWELLS has lately told us what *he* thinks of the historical romance. Not a few persons, however, disagree with him. Among these may be reckoned the publisher in the following tale, told by the *Chicago Times-Herald*:

"The young novelist laid his card on the great publisher's desk and then began unwrapping a large bundle that was fastened with heavy ropes.

"'I have here,' he said, 'a novel which—'

"'Pardon me for interrupting you,' the publisher said, 'but there's no use undoing it. We have more books on hand now than we shall be able to publish in the next five years. It will only be a waste of time for us to discuss your work. Take it somewhere else.'

"A look of sadness



DESCRIPTION OF THE HEROINE OF A ROMANTIC PLAY:

"She has a beautiful eye with a low brow; her ear is as the rose; her mouth is cherry-like, and her neck is that of a swan, while her hair falls in wondrous coils."

—*The New York Dramatic Mirror.*

took the place of the hopeful expression that had illuminated the young novelist's countenance, and, turning toward the door, he said: 'I don't mind telling you that George Washington is the hero of this tale.'

"'Ah, very good,' the publisher answered; 'George, if worked up properly, ought to make a first-class hero.'

"'And,' the novelist continued, as he took a step or two toward the hall, 'Benedict Arnold is the villain of the story. Benjamin Franklin is the funny man—the fellow that says the droll things, you know. Dolly Madison figures in it as the beautiful, gentle maiden who doesn't know her own heart until every male character in the book has taken a twang at the strings, and Thomas Jefferson is the wise chap who can't see a joke and is always trying to get off logic. But I'm taking up your time. Excuse me. Printem & Co., across the street, seem to be bringing out a good many successful books lately, I guess I'll go over there. By the way, I've worked up the duel scene between Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton in great shape. I have them fight first with knives, then they try it with swords; upon a third occasion they use pitchforks; at another time they come together with clubbed guns, and finally with pistols, according to the historical fact. Israel Putnam's leap over the precipice with his horse, and Patrick Henry's defiance of King George, in the Virginia legislature, form thrilling chapters of my story. Perhaps at some future time—'

"'Ho! Help! Help!' shouted the publisher; 'stop this man! Don't let him get away! He has a historical novel! Come back! Come back! Please come back and name your terms. 'William,' the head of the great firm said, turning to his secretary, 'write a half-page advertisement at once, mentioning the fact that 1,260,000 copies of Mr.—Mr.—ah, what is your name? Mr. Carvel-Johnstone's novel have already been sold, and that the publishers confidently expect a sale of 7,000,000 more before the proofs are read.'

MĀGHA—ONE OF INDIA'S GREAT POETS.

AMONG the most interesting personages in the little-known history of Hindu literature is the poet Māgha, author of the "Sisupālvadha," ranked among the greatest works of India. An interesting account of Māgha, who flourished about the end of the tenth century of our era, is given by Kali Shanka Sharma in *The Universal Brotherhood Path* (November). The writer says of him:

"His father, Dattak, had immense wealth. It is said that at the birth of Māgha he invited many celebrated astrologers from all parts of India to examine the stars of the child. They say to him that his son, after enjoying the wealth that he would leave to him, and acquiring good reputation, was destined to suffer at the close of his life from some disease in his feet and then die in extreme poverty and gloom. His father, thinking that a man could not live more than one hundred years, 36,000 days, put as many necklaces of invaluable pearls in separate boxes in preparation for the days of misfortune prophesied by the astrologers, and, having educated his son in the best possible way, he breathed his last, leaving a property a hundred times more valuable than that stored apart against poverty.

"It was after the death of his father that Māgha began to write his great work, 'Sisupālvadha,' the composition of which won for him immortal fame. He was not one of those unfortunate poets whose works are bitterly criticized in their own day and are admired only after their death. After the completion of his work he was at once regarded as the greatest poet of his age, and was visited by many men of letters. But Māgha's reputation was not only due to his unparalleled genius, but also to his exceedingly compassionate nature and unbounded benevolence. He considered it his first duty to assist the poor and the suffering. He never forgot throughout his life the great truth that it is only in rendering service to suffering humanity, in working for the welfare of others, that life is worthily spent, and that thus only can the soul obtain complete and final victory over the lower animal nature in man, the cause of all sin."

Later, Māgha lost all of his great fortune, so that all he possessed was a copy of his own book, and he was compelled to set

out from his former home on foot with his wife, to seek assistance of his friend, the Rajah Bhaja, of Mālwa. "The pair that had never known sorrow," says the writer, with Oriental imagery, "the same pair, followed by pale-faced men, feeble women, and withered children, was now going on foot without even a day's food. . . . Great was the law of Karma! Nevertheless their faces shone with a heavenly light, they felt inwardly satisfied. . . . An unknown something helped them. Perhaps in contrast with the ghost-like crowd at their back there stood before them, what the material eye can only vaguely see, the smiling glorious souls inhabiting heaven, telling them what they could not distinctly hear: 'Your life is transient; your sorrows, like your former joys, are fleeting. Come with us and enjoy eternal happiness.' " The rest of the characteristically Oriental story is told in the following translation from the Hindu book "Bhoja Prananda":

"Reaching Mālwa, Māgha sat near the city gate. He sent his wife to the court of the king with a slip of paper on which was written a sloka (four lines) from his own poem. When the wife reached the court, the warden thus informed the king, 'Māgha, the best of Pandits, sits near the city gate. He has sent his wife here, who stands at the door.' 'Let her enter,' said the king. Entering the court, the wife of Māgha handed the letter to the king, who read:

"'The white water-lily has lost its beauty. The lotus flowers are beginning to appear pleasant. The owl has become silent. The ruddy goose is happy. The moon sets. The sun rises. Ah! Karma, under the hands of heavy fate, bears fruit in different ways.' ('Sisupālvadha,' Canto II, Sloka 64.)

"Reading this beautiful description of dawn and the moral deduced therefrom, Bhoja gave her 300,000 rupees and said, 'Mother, I give this little sum only for the preparation of food. Next morning I shall come to fall at the feet of your husband.'

"Hearing the poor praise her husband, she gave all that sum to them while she was on her way to the gate of the city. Reaching that place, she informed her husband of all that had happened. 'You are my fame incarnate,' said Māgha, 'but what shall we do now, as other beggars are coming?' Seeing Māgha in that plight, a learned Brahman among the famine-stricken people said to him: 'Having poured water on the mountains scorched by the rays of the summer sun, having freshened the woods stripped of their green by direful fire, having filled with water hundreds of tanks and rivers, O Cloud, thy emptiness now has become thy most valuable ornament!'

"Upon this, Māgha said to his wife, 'O unhappy time, I have not a penny left now. Forlorn hope yet follows me. My mind, distracted tho it be, is still desirous of feeding the poor. Begging is loss of good name, committing suicide is a sin. O my soul, leave this wretched body of mine! Why dost thou delay? The waters of tranquillity have quenched the fire of poverty. But what thing in the world has power enough to extinguish the internal flame, which, being originated by the disappointed expectations of the hungry people, is bitterly feeding upon my heart. In this time of famine no one lends money. Alas! the king of the planets is setting now, and yet I have not given a bit of food to the poor. Life has now become burdensome to me.'

"Seeing Māgha thus lamenting, the hungry crowd began to depart in tears. At this time Māgha felt unbearable pain. 'Away, away, my soul,' he cried, 'for the hungry in complete disappointment are leaving me. Thou shalt certainly depart one day, why not then on this occasion, when I sigh to follow the poor and when death is more welcome to me than ever?'

"These were the last words of this great poet-philosopher."

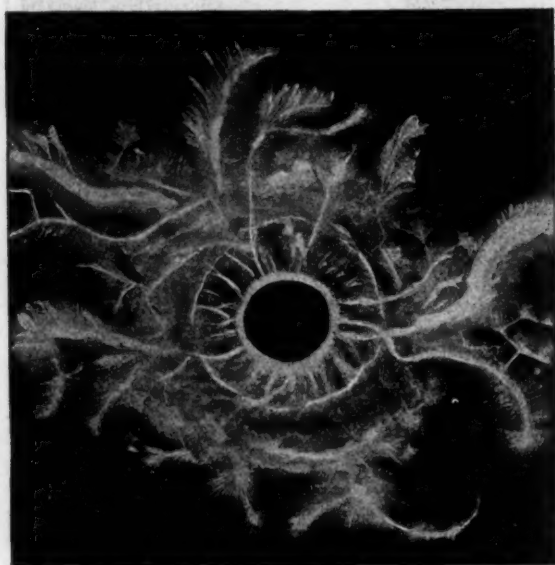
AMONG the new books about Tolstoy is one by Dr. Alice B. Stockham, giving her impressions of the Russian prophet as seen by her in the course of recent journey to Russia. He had been especially interested in her books "Tokology" and "Karezza," and it was largely to present her ideas for the amelioration of women that she undertook the trip. The book contains much that is new and interesting about Tolstoy, especially in regard to his attitude toward the new metaphysics. A friend's doctor suggested that she could not be healed by the power of mind. "Why not?" Tolstoy replied; "All life is from the spirit: mind and body are inseparable. Nothing exists except by the power of spirit; man can not breathe or walk, he can not move a finger, his tongue would be dumb, his eyes sightless, were it not for the impelling life of spirit."

SCIENCE AND INVENTION.

PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDY OF THE ELECTRIC SPARK.

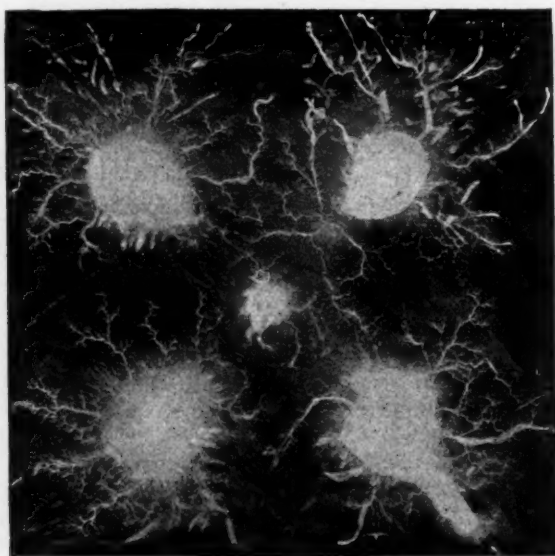
PHOTOGRAPHY is now so well recognized as a method of scientific investigation that no phenomenon can be said to have been exhaustively studied unless it has been photographed if it will lend itself in any way to such treatment. Some beautiful photographs of electrical discharges, taken in the course of recent investigations, are reproduced and described in *Der Stein der Weisen* (Vienna). Says the writer:

"Lightning as a striking and powerful natural phenomenon has always had quite a unique effect on the beholder, even if we



PHOTOGRAPH OF ELECTRICAL DISCHARGE FROM AN INSULATED METALLIC SURFACE.

do not take into account the half-instinctive fear of it shown by children. The lightning discharge as a high-tension electric phenomenon of the atmosphere was long ago carefully observed

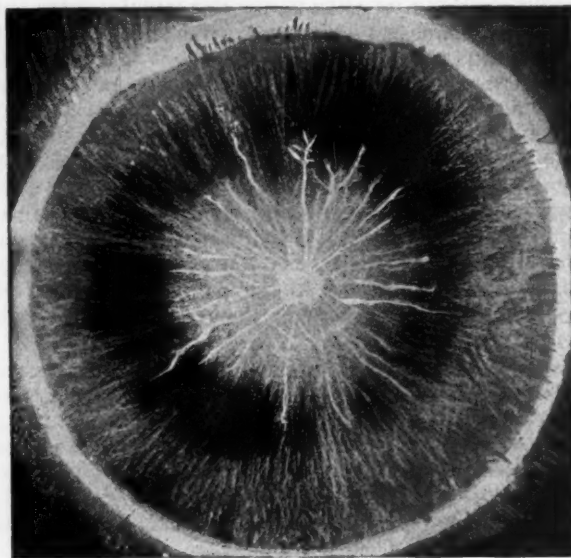


DISCHARGE FROM AN INSULATED METAL CROSS.

in regard to form, power, and intensity, and there is a whole literature describing the occurrence and effects of noteworthy discharges.

"Moussette . . . assumed that lightning was an entirely material phenomenon, an outburst of flame that proceeded from

cloud to earth and destroyed objects that lay in its path if its temperature were high enough to do so. According to him the 'streak of lightning' was due to the passage of so-called ball-lightning. . . . According to our better knowledge of electricity, whereby we recognize lightning as only the visible effects of a



DISCHARGE FROM A RING TOWARD A CENTRAL ELECTRODE.

union of positive and negative atmospheric electricity, we are rapidly gaining clearer ideas of the phenomenon, and at the same time the high-tension electric currents now available are enabling us to reproduce it with greater duration than when it occurs in nature. The formation of lightning by the passage of a spark from a positive to a negative pole, and its appearance to our eyes as an almost unbroken line, are evidently matters of special interest.

"The most common form of lightning is that which appears as a crooked line of light, while the so-called 'ball-lightning' is more seldom seen, altho it is more interesting."

The study of both these forms of lightning by allowing a high-tension discharge to take place upon a photographic plate has been undertaken during several years past, the writer informs us, by numerous investigators in various countries. And some extremely interesting results have been obtained, throwing light on the structure and course of the electric discharge under various conditions. We reproduce a number of these, which are as interesting to the lover of beautiful form as are snow crystals or frost-formations, which they somewhat resemble.—*Translation made for THE LITERARY DIGEST.*

A RACE OF IMMUNES.

THE Arabs are practically immune to typhoid fever, and to all diseases of the serous membranes, so we are informed in a paper read by Messrs. Tostivint and Reutlinger before the Paris Society of Biology. There are always compensations in nature, and hence we need not be surprised to learn that the race is also prone to pneumonia and diseases of the lungs. We quote an abstract of the paper given in the *New York Medical Journal*:

"It seems that army medical statistics show that diseases of the digestive canal are twice as frequent among European troops in Algeria and Tunis as among the native soldiers. This is true of diseases of all parts of the intestinal canal. Affections of the liver also are much less common among the Arabs than among Europeans. On the other hand, all pulmonary affections are more prevalent among the natives. These peculiarities, the authors think, are due, the one to immunization in childhood by drinking unwholesome water, and the other to the fact that the

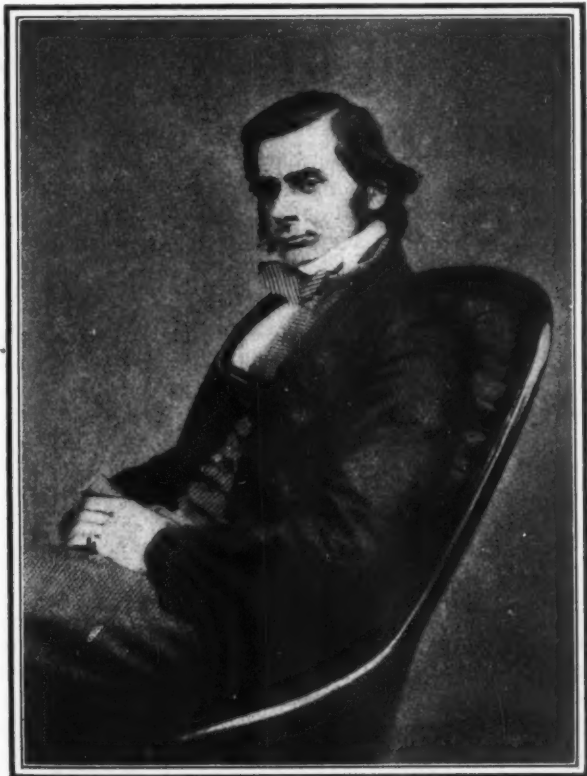
Arab's lungs, accustomed to the pure air of vast solitudes, are little fitted to struggle against the germs encountered in the air breathed by multitudes.

"As to the resistance of the Arab's serous membranes to infection, the authors say it is observed in the case of all those membranes, but particularly of the peritoneum and the pleura. . . . In consequence of this resisting power abdominal surgery among the Arabs is attended with the most favorable results. Rheumatism is exceptional, and metastasis [shifting] of infectious diseases to the synovial membranes of the joints and to the other serous membranes is very rare. The only serous affections that are met with as frequently among the Arabs as among Europeans are those occasioned by Koch's bacillus or the pneumococcus; the Arabs' very decided susceptibility to these two micro-organisms contrasts sharply with the general resisting power of their serous membranes. This resisting power . . . seems to be a peculiarity of the primitive races. The peritoneum of the lower animals, it appears to be added in support of this theory, grows less and less resistant to infection the higher the creature is in the scale of living beings.

"Race peculiarities in regard to morbid susceptibilities are always interesting subjects of study, and much may be learned from their investigation. It is to be hoped, however, that the theory of intestinal immunization by the habitual drinking of foul water in childhood will lead to no attempt to introduce the practise into preventive medicine, for, to our mind, it could result only in the survival of the toughest, like the 'hardening' process."

THE LETTERS OF A GREAT SCIENTIST.

ONE of the most noteworthy books of the season is Huxley's "Life and Letters," edited by his son Leonard. The literary journals that review this collection take the opportunity to



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THOMAS HENRY HUXLEY, 1857.

say a good deal about the life and character of the distinguished English biologist. *Literature* (November 17) speaks as follows:

"Two views of Huxley were entertained by his friends. According to one he was meant to be a great investigator, who, fortunately for science, in his early years yielded to his bent, but who was later in life allured into controversies and discussions in which, being untrained, he could do no more than every man of capacity can perform, no matter how alien the field which he

enters. According to another view he was born to be a controversialist and a combatant; a sort of Luther for modern science, he found his true vocation only when, in *The Nineteenth Century* and elsewhere, he fought fiercely for intellectual freedom. The impression left by these volumes is that neither judgment expressed the whole truth; that his nature was larger than some of his friends conceived; and that the man was never completely



From "The Life and Letters of Huxley." Copyright, 1900, by D. Appleton & Co.

THOMAS HENRY HUXLEY, 1893.

revealed until he had fought all his many fights, and wandered into many regions."

In one respect the book will be a surprise; it reveals Huxley as a champion of the Bible and of religious teaching. Says the same paper:

"It will be a revelation to many persons who cite his name in support of extreme views to find that he was opposed to extremes of all sorts; that, for example, he deprecated divorcing intellectual from moral training, which would make the gutter child 'the subtlest of all the beasts of the field,' and that, while inexorable as to the expulsion of all theological teaching, he deprecated the abolition of religious teaching, which would be like 'burning your ship to get rid of the cockroaches,' or to 'throw away the child with the bath.' He voted for the retention of the Bible in the board schools because he believed that 'the mass of people should not be deprived of the one great literature which is open to them—not shut out from the perception of their relations with the whole past history of civilized mankind.' In fact, a clear line of cleavage was drawn between Huxley and the seven extreme secularists on the board—the Seven Champions of Unchristendom as they were styled. He voted for the famous compromise of 1871 proposed by the late Mr. W. H. Smith, providing for the reading of the Bible in board schools, not as a 'hush-up,' but, as he expressed it, as 'an armistice in respect of certain matters as to which the parties were absolutely irreconcilable.' One of the most striking of the many letters is that addressed to a secretary of a free-thought association rebuking the vendors of heterodox ribaldry, which disgusted him even more than orthodox fanaticism. It was characteristic of him that he did not draw, 'personally, socially, or politically,' to Bradlaugh; and equally characteristic that he took up the cudgels for the cause of toleration when it was proposed to exclude Miss Bradlaugh from the classes at University College."

Huxley will doubtless be best remembered as a controversial

defender of science against religion, in matters where he conceived that they were at variance. Of his attitude here, a writer in the London *Academy* says:

"Huxley was no kid-glove fighter. He did not spare himself; he did not spare his enemies; and he gloried in the fight, as all strong natures, with strong views, must. He was not of those who turn the other cheek: when he was hit he hit back, and casuistry, emotional rhetoric, and shuffling he smote hip and thigh. When he felt scorn, he showed his scorn. He was very human; when he thought he was right, he had small sympathy for the views of the other side; he lacked Darwin's gentle courtesy, but his militancy was always in defense of straightforward and honest thinking. The wildcat element was strong in him, and tho on occasion he pared the creature's nails, they always grew again. He was not a Francis of Assisi, but a man whose aim in life was to understand life, its woof and warp and intention, to think and see clearly, and to whip hypocrisy. 'Everything which entered his brain by eye or ear,' said Professor Romanes, 'came out clarified, sifted, arranged, and verified by its passage through the logical machine of his strong individuality.'

"He held strong views, he spoke them; and the hearer he liked was the gritty, hard-headed workingman, with no illusions, but with plenty of fundamental brain power. 'I am sick of the *dilettante* middle class, and mean to try what I can do with hard-handed fellows who live among facts. . . . I believe in the fustian, and can talk better to it than to any amount of gauze and Saxony.'

Tho Huxley began his career at a time when scientific pursuits were rather unprofitable in England, or, as he himself put it, when a man of science would "get invitations to all sorts of dinners and conversaziones, but not enough income to pay his cab-fare," yet he never appears to have quailed, and some of the most characteristic letters in the biography, both of his early and his later life, are illustrative of his determined spirit. The first extract which follows is from a letter to his sister under date of 1850—the outset of his life-work in London:

"I tell you all these things [his circumstances and difficulties] to show you clearly how I stand. I am under no man's *patronage*, nor do I even mean to be. I have never asked, and I never will ask, any man for his help from mere motives of friendship. If any man thinks that I am capable of forwarding the great cause in ever so small a way, let him just give me a helping hand and I will thank him; but if not, he is doing both himself and me harm in offering it, and if it should be necessary for me to find public expression to my thoughts on any matter, I have clearly made up my mind to do so, without allowing myself to be influenced by hope of gain or weight of authority.

"There are many nice people in this world for whose praise or blame I care not a whistle. I don't know and I don't care whether I shall ever be what is called a great man. I shall leave my mark somewhere, and it shall be clear and distinct and free from the abominable blur of cant, humbug, and self-seeking which surrounds everything in this present world."

Over forty years afterward (in a preface of 1894), Huxley again writes of himself, and, speaking of a much-opposed book he had published in earlier life, shows that he considered that his own fearlessness and determination were principles not merely to be practised, but to be preached:

"*Magna est veritas et prævalebit!* The truth is great, certainly, but, considering her greatness, it is curious what a long time she is apt to take about prevailing. When, toward the end of 1862, I had finished writing 'Man's Place in Nature,' I could say with a good conscience that my conclusions 'had not been formed hastily or enunciated crudely.' I thought I had earned the right to publish them, and even fancied I might be thanked rather than reproved for doing so. However, in my anxiety to publish nothing erroneous, I asked a highly competent anatomist and very good friend of mine to look through my proofs, and, if he could, point out any errors of fact. I was well pleased

when he returned them without criticism on that score; but my satisfaction was speedily dashed by the very earnest warning as to the consequences of publication, which my friend's interest in my welfare led him to give. But, as I have confessed elsewhere, when I was a young man, there was just a little—a mere *soupeçon*—in my composition of that tenacity of purpose which has another name; and I felt sure that all the evil things prophesied would not be so painful to me as the giving up that which I had resolved to do, upon grounds which I conceived to be right. So the book came out; and I must do my friend the justice to say that his forecast was completely justified. The Boreas of criticism blew his hardest blasts of misrepresentation and ridicule for some years, and I was even as one of the wicked. Indeed, it surprises me at times to think how any one who had sunk so low could since have emerged into, at any rate, relative respectability.

"I doubt not that there are truths as plainly obvious and as generally denied as those contained in 'Man's Place in Nature,' now awaiting enunciation. If there is a young man of the present generation who has taken as much trouble as I did to assure himself that they are truths, let him come out with them, without troubling his head about the barking of the dogs of St. Ernulphus. *Veritas prævalebit*—some day; and even if she does not prevail in his time, he himself will be all the better and wiser for having tried to help her. And let him recollect that such great reward is full payment for all his labor and pains."

When one of his controversial articles was returned to him as "rather too pungent," with a request to tone it down, he commented as follows:

"I spent three mortal hours this morning taming my wildcat. He is now castrated; his teeth are filed; his claws are cut; he is taught to swear like a 'mieu'; and to spit like a cough; and when he is turned out of the bag you won't know him from a tame rabbit."

Quite another side of Huxley, and a new one even to those familiar with his works, is the lighter and social vein of the man. "His conversation," a friend is quoted as saying, "was singularly finished, and (if I may so express it) clean-cut; never long-winded or prosy; enlivened by vivid illustrations." The "Life and Letters" is full of his humor and repartee, of which a few anecdotes follow:

"Once in a country house he was sitting at dinner next to his hostess, a lady who, as will sometimes happen, liked to play the part of Lady Arbitress of the whole neighborhood. She told him how much she disapproved of the Athanasian Creed, and described how she had risen and left the village church when the parson began to read it; and, thinking to gain my father's assent, she turned to him and said graciously, 'Now, Mr. Huxley, don't you think I was quite right to mark my disapproval?'

"My dear lady," he replied, 'I should as soon think of rising and leaving your table because I disapproved of one of the entrées.'

Toward Huxley's later life, it appears, a certain drawback to conversation came upon him:

"It is a great misfortune (he remarked to Professor Osborn) to be deaf in only one ear. Every time I dine out the lady sitting by my good ear thinks I am charming, but I make a mortal enemy of the lady on my deaf side."

The larger part of the story in Leonard Huxley's book is told by his father's own letters. These cover a wide range of subjects, from purely scientific ones to mere social pen-chat, and are addressed to a remarkable number of different correspondents. One thus gives his description of his aim in life:

"To smite all humbugs however big; to give a nobler tone to science; to get an example of abstinence from petty personal controversies, and of toleration for everything but lying; to be indifferent as to whether the work is recognized as mine or not, so long as it is done."

In the following paragraph he gives his opinion of science:

"Science seems to me to teach in the highest and strongest

manner the great truth which is embodied in the Christian conception of entire surrender to the will of God. Sit down before facts as a little child, be prepared to give up every preconceived notion, follow humbly wherever and to whatever abysses nature leads, or you shall learn nothing. I have only begun to learn content and peace of mind since I have resolved at all risks to do this."

A number of Huxley's letters are to his children, some filled with wise advice, some playful. Of the latter sort is one in answer to his grandson, a little fellow five years old, who, having read Kingsley's "Water Babies," and deeming his grandfather an authority on any matter of natural history, wrote thus to inquire:

"DEAR GRANDPATER: Have you seen a water-baby? Did you put it in a bottle? Did it wonder if it could get out? Can I see it some day? Your loving
"JULIAN."

The following was Huxley's reply, which the biography gives in facsimile, neatly printed out so the child might read it:

"MY DEAR JULIAN: I never could make sure about that water-baby. I have seen babies in water and babies in bottles, but the baby in the water was not in a bottle, and the baby in the bottle was not in water. My friend who wrote the story of the water-baby was a very kind man and very clever. Perhaps he thought I could see as much in the water as he did. There are some people who see a great deal and some who see very little in the same things. When you grow up, I dare say you will be one of the great-deal seers, and see things more wonderful than water-babies where other folks can see nothing. Ever your loving
"GRANDPATER."

TOBACCO AS A NECESSITY.

THE suggestion was made by newspaper correspondents during our war with Spain that tobacco had ceased to be a luxury and had become a necessity, for soldiers at least, and that it accordingly should be issued as part of their regular rations. The authors were well laughed at; but now we find that the experiences of the South African war have suggested the same things to our English cousins. Says *The Lancet* (London, November 10):

"The war in South Africa has taught many things of greater and of less importance. Perhaps nothing that it has demonstrated has been more marked than the important part which tobacco plays in the soldier's existence. Whether this is to be reckoned as a great fact or a small one there can be no doubt about the truth of it. Yet the Duke of Wellington's armies had no tobacco worth speaking of. If they did not forbid its use, at any rate the Iron Duke's officers were directed to advise their men strongly against it. What a curious contrast with the campaigning in South Africa, where marches and privations as long and as stern as any suffered by our great-grandfathers were borne by the volunteers and soldiers of to-day with a grumble only when their 'smokes' failed them. We have it from many who took part in the forced marches leading to Paardeberg, to Bloemfontein, to Pretoria, and beyond, that when rations were but two or three biscuits a day the only real physical content of each twenty-four hours came with the pipe smoked by the smouldering embers of a camp-fire. This pipe eased the way to sleep that might otherwise have lingered, delayed by the sheer bodily fatigue and mental restlessness caused by prolonged and monotonous exertion. It is difficult, then, to believe that tobacco is anything but a real help to men who are suffering long labors and receiving little food, and probably the way in which it helps is by quieting cerebration—for no one doubts its sedative qualities—and thus allowing more easily sleep which is so all-important when semi-starvation has to be endured.

"The cases of acute mental derangement in the course of campaigns such as the present are many. There have indeed been many in South Africa. It would be most profitable and interesting could medical officers have taken special note of the capacity for sleep previously evidenced by those who broke down and also of their indulgence or non-indulgence in tobacco. We are

inclined to believe that, used with due moderation, tobacco is of value second only to food itself when long privations and exertions are to be endured. Two features are to be noted with regard to the smoking practised on active service. It is almost entirely in the open air and it is largely on an empty stomach. The former is always an advantage; the latter we generally reckon a most unfavorable condition. Shall we see in the near future patients with tobacco amblyopia or smoker's heart acquired while the trusting friend of tobacco thought that he was enjoying unharmed the well-earned solace of a hard day's march? We believe not, and that the open air will have saved what might have been the untoward results of smoking when unfed."

Hygienic Value of the Beard.—Hair on the face is not worth very much from a hygienic standpoint, according to Gabriel Prevost. In an article translated somewhat awkwardly in *The Medical Times*, he says:

"Scarcely under the form of heavy moustaches shading the lips can it invoke service by hindering the introduction into the lungs of too cold air; and yet it should not pride itself too much on this. In return for less than the greatest neatness, it is filthy, and physiologically it is a net of microbes. It is evident that the inspiration of the air tends to accumulate dust there, as it does in a broom. The least trace of foods, liquid or solid, soils it and makes it an object of disgust; odors, good or bad, choose a dwelling-place there, and, finally, laziness about shaving is the only argument to put forth by those who praise it. From a bacteriological point of view it is almost unluckily the receptacle of dangerous microbes to which it serves at the same time for an habitation and a vehicle. Let us have the courage then to declare that we can not understand how any one can persist in this, least of all the physician or the soldier, two existences everywhere comparable by their forced contact with promiscuous people. The absurd prejudice still remains that the development of the hairy system coincides with that of strength. In this case we refer the fanatics of the beard to Antomarche, who made the autopsy of Napoleon. The conqueror of Wagram had not a hair on his breast. He did not have, besides, one on his hand."

SCIENCE BREVITIES.

THE great smoke-cloud of the North of England is stated to have a notable influence on plants. Albert Wilson, in a paper on the subject, read before the British Association, spoke of the extent of the great smoke-producing district of the North of England and the miserable condition of the vegetation in some parts of the area. Among the various points dealt with in the paper, says *Nature*, were "the long distance reached by the smoke of large towns; the discoloration of rain-water ('black rain'); the effect of smoke on mosses and hepatics as compared with that on higher plants, the influence of smoke on sunshine and air-temperature in calm summer weather and in anticyclonic weather during autumn or winter.

"THE comparative, one might almost say absolute, security of ocean travel could not be better illustrated than in the latest trips of the Atlantic liners," says *The Marine Review*. "A storm raged, the fierceness of which passes all memory, and yet every ship came in. They were late, of course, all of them, but they came in. Every one of them had been battered with countless tons of water, hurled with immeasurable force, and time and again the mighty line s were tossed like corks upon the waves. But they conquered triumphantly. Fastenings were torn from the decks and even propeller-blades were lost, but they plowed steadily forward. There was a diminution of speed, but they went on. That wonderful machine, the essence of power, known as the Atlantic liner, is superior to the tempest. The mind of man subdues, if not directs, the elements."

THE TRAINING OF SIGHT.—"Lord Wolseley having lately remarked upon the good sight of the Boers as one cause at least of their good shooting, and having ascribed this good sight to its constant exercise in the open air, Mr. Brudenell Carter has pointed out," says *The Hospital*, "that it is not merely a question of open air but of the training of sight upon things that are far off and difficult to see. The defective vision possessed by so many children who have been brought up in towns is not caused by errors of refraction alone, common as these are, but by an actual deficiency in acuteness of vision, a lack of development in the nervous structures involved in the act of seeing. 'Vision,' he says, 'like every other nerve-function, must be cultivated for the attainment of a high degree of excellence. The visual power of London children is now cultivated by their environment. They see the other side of the street in which they live, and the carts and omnibuses of the thoroughfares. They scarcely ever have the visual attention directed strongly to any object which is difficult to see, or which subtends a visual angle approaching the limits of visibility; and hence the seeing function is never exerted, or at least is not habitually exerted to anything like what should be the extent of its powers. With a country child the case is widely different.'"

THE RELIGIOUS WORLD.

DISCOVERY OF "THE WISDOM OF THE CHALDEANS."

THE rediscovery of the oldest Hebrew book of magic in existence, the manuscript of which was lost over a thousand years ago, is an event of interest to Jewish and Christian scholars. An account of the manuscript and its history was lately given at a meeting of the London Society of Biblical Archeology. Dr. Gaster, a well-known Jewish scholar, stated that he had come into possession of the manuscript from Nisibis in Mesopotamia. It consists of sixty-two leaves, written by at least two or three hands, some of it in Arabic with Hebrew characters, and proves to be a collection of magical formulas and recipes belonging to many ages. Among the wonder-workers whose formulas are mentioned are Moses, Elijah, Elisha, Ezra the priest, Rabbi Aharon—the famous magician of the ninth century—and many other medieval rabbis belonging both to the Northern Ashkenazim and to the Southern Sephardim. We quote the following account of the manuscript from a summary of Dr. Gaster's address in the London *Jewish Chronicle* (November 9):

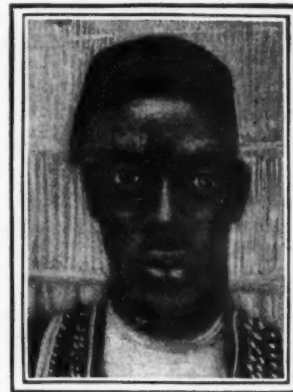
"The most important portion of the manuscript proved to be a compendium of the astrological value and utilization of the powers that rule in the course of the week. Each regent is described, its image is given, the mode of drawing it is indicated, and instructions are set forth how to make use in a magical manner of the image thus drawn, and of the formulas which are to accompany any of these magic operations. We are told to what profit this knowledge can be turned, the good and evil that can be performed by means of these divine images, and many curious instructions, as well as the Sigils or seals of these regents. The revelation of these mysteries is ascribed, in the first place, to Raziel, and, secondly, to the primitive Enoch. The Book of Enoch is often quoted in the Zohar, and brought into connection with this self-same Raziel. To him, and through him, etc., the astronomical mysteries of the world are said to have been communicated to Adam, Noah, Abraham. The same tradition is found in this manuscript, except that this knowledge is not communicated to Abraham but to the Chaldeans. Curiously enough, the name of God is never mentioned in this particular treatise, and there is not a single citation of a Biblical text or verse. On the other hand, it is saturated with the principles that rule in the Oriental magic, inasmuch as the ruling powers of the day are strictly separated from the planets, which are simply mentioned to indicate the propitious hour for writing the amulets. Evidently the regents of the different days are regarded as angels and supreme spirits that move these planets without being identified with them. Throughout, the names of these angels are Hebrew, there being scarcely one which is not capable of being explained by the Hebrew language. One point in the text under consideration is extremely interesting as showing its archaic character and the clew it gives to a metaphorical expression often used in Cabalistic writings, but seldom clearly expressed. It is often stated that God, or the name of God, or one of the Chief Powers, is included in and identified with that of his serving or ministering angels. The same expression occurs in the text. To each one of the chief angels of the day a number of angels are added as servitors. Examining their names, it is found that the first letters of the serving angels are the very letters of the name of their Chief Ruler. They form an anagram of his name, so that it is truly said that his name is included in theirs and theirs in his. In one case the angel is described in the form of a woman. The influence of the notion that the regent of the sixth day is Venus has been so strong as to cause the author to accept female angels in the heavenly hierarchy—a strong proof of the non-Jewish origin of the text, because the conception of female angels is contrary to Jewish notions.

"The title of this treatise is 'The Wisdom of the Chaldeans.' Reference to Chaldean astronomy is very rare in Hebrew writings; but it is referred to in the oldest astronomical book—the 'Beraytha de Rabbi Samuel.' Chapter IX. is devoted exclusively to the interpretation of the astrological importance of each of the

seven planets. Each is minutely described as ruling over some occurrence or other. Sabatai (Saturn) rules over poverty, misery, illness, and sickness, destruction, internal ailments, and sin. Sabatai is first in order, and is said in the Book of Creation to have been created on the first day of the week. The author of that work must therefore have commenced his week on Saturday. The other six planets are the Sun, Venus, Mars, Mercury, the Moon, and Jupiter. Over the seven planets are appointed seven rulers, or angels, viz., Raphael, the angel of the Sun, Anael, the angel of Venus, Michael, the angel of Mercury, Gabriel, the angel of the Moon, Qaphsel, the angel of Saturn, Sadkiel, that of Jupiter, and Samael, that of Mars. While these names are to be found in other mystical works, nowhere do we find a parallel to the entire text, or to the images under which these angels are to be represented."

STANLEY AS A MISSIONARY.

WHEN in 1875 Henry M. Stanley was circumnavigating the Victoria Nyanza in Central Africa, over a thousand miles from either seaboard, he discovered a man who since has played a part of some importance in English colonial history—Mtesa, king of Uganda. In *The Youth's Companion* (December 20) Sir Henry—who is now a knight and member of Parliament—tells of his first meeting with this interesting African monarch and of some religious discussions which they had together, showing Stanley in a decidedly new light. He writes:



MTESA, KING OF UGANDA.
—*Youth's Companion*.

"One day in full court the subject of the white man's faith was broached. As I expounded, I observed fixed attention on the part of the king and courtiers such as I had not noticed before. The rule had been understood by all that talk should be brief and various, but now it became animated and continuous. Gestures, exclamations, and answers followed one another rapidly, and every face was lighted up by intense interest. When we finally adjourned, the subject was not exhausted; greater cordiality was in the hand-shakes at parting, and Mtesa urged that we should continue the discussion on the next day. And so we did for several days. It seemed that the comparisons of Mohammed with Jesus Christ were infinitely more fascinating than the most lively sketches of Europe, with its wonders and customs; and truly the description of the accusation of Christ, his judgment by Pilate, and the last scene on Calvary was the means of rousing such emotion that I saw my powers of discerning character were extremely immature and defective. . . .

"We were deep in the decalog when an unexpected white visitor made his appearance in Uganda as suddenly almost as I had made mine. This was no other than Colonel Linant de Bellefonds, one of Gordon's staff, who had come on a political mission. Soon after the novelty of his arrival had somewhat worn away and the resumption of the decalog was mooted, it struck Mtesa that it would be a prudent thing to question this other white man from the north regarding the things I had said about Jesus and Mohammed and the respective faiths. Some of the native chiefs had gone among the Arab traders and had been made uneasy in their minds by the arguments in behalf of Mohammedanism. It was proposed in open court to question Colonel Linant, and the chiefs assented. Fortunately for the confirmation of my statements, the colonel, altho a Frenchman, happened to be a stanch Calvinist, and gave answers which corroborated me beyond a doubt. We then resumed the writing of the decalog, and in a short time it was finished.

"Mtesa was dismayed that the period of my departure had arrived. I had already passed a longer time in his company than was prudent, seeing that I had such a large number of men depending upon me at the other end of the Nyanza. He began to

devise various expedients for my delay, and had it not been for the presence of Colonel Linant, it might not have been an easy matter to leave him. He at last, after a firm refusal from me to remain longer, cried out, in a voice that had a tone of despair in it:

"What is the use, then, of your coming to Uganda to disturb our minds if, as soon as we are convinced that what you have said has right and reason in it, you go away before we are fully instructed?" "Mtesa is under a misunderstanding," I answered. "I am not an instructor in religion. I am simply a *kirangozi* [a pioneer] of civilization. When Mtesa goes to Usoga or to Ankori to make war, he first sends out guides and pioneers to point and clear the way for his army. That is what I do. When I go back to Europe, I must tell the white people the way that they should take to Uganda. Then those who may think they would like to do business with your people, or those who would wish to teach them the Christian faith, will come here by the way I have shown. If Mtesa really wishes that lawful instructors should come to Uganda, he has but to say so, and I shall write to the people of England to that effect, and I am sure they will send the proper men for that purpose." "Then write, Stamlee" (the native pronunciation of my name), "and say to the white people that I am like a child sitting in darkness, and can not see until I am taught the right way."

"I gladly consented, and on April 14, 1875, I made two copies of an appeal for missionaries to be sent to Uganda, one of which I enclosed under cover to General Gordon, and delivered to Colonel Linant. The other I intended to send by my own couriers overland to Zanzibar. Three days later I resumed my voyage. Four months passed, and I was again in Uganda, to continue, as circumstances permitted, the interesting task I had left unfinished. During the three months I remained with Mtesa, the translations which we made from the gospels were very copious, and the principal events from the creation to the crucifixion were also fairly written out, forming a bulky library of boards. When the work was finished, it was solemnly announced in full court that for the future Uganda would be Christian and not Mohammedan."

In consequence of the appeal made by Stanley in London and New York, a missionary fund of \$150,000 was raised, and a band of five missionaries were sent to Uganda. Now a cathedral, 372 churches, and 97,575 converts are the result of the initial impulse which Stanley gave to missionary work in this field.

MINISTER WU ON THE RELATIVE MERITS OF CHRISTIANITY AND CONFUCIANISM.

FOR the first time since its triumph over the older religions of paganism in the days of Constantine, Christianity is coming of late years into direct contact in its own domain with intelligent adherents of other great faiths. Particularly since the World's Parliament of Religions has Christianity had to endure the ordeal of unawed criticism. In return for the Christian missionaries sent to the "heathen" countries, the Orient—represented in the Vedic, Buddhist, and Mohammedan faiths—is sending its missionaries to Europe and America. These men see the vulnerable points of Western civilization, just as the Christian missionaries see the social sores of the Orient; and therefore mutual recriminations are beginning to be common. Adherents of each world-religion are apt to claim credit for whatever is good and deny responsibility for all that is bad in the social organism in which it is a part, and, *vice versa*, the assailants of each world-religion are apt to charge upon it all the bad and deny credit for all the good. Still others deny that any religion is more than one of many important factors in racial evolution, and assert that Buddhism or Judaism or Christianity owes fully as much to civilization as civilization owes to it.

Of the several discussions of this nature which have lately taken place, that aroused by the speech of Mr. Wu Ting-Fang, the Chinese minister in Washington, before the Ethical Society

in New York, has attracted most attention. He said in part (*New York Times*, December 10):

"What is Confucianism? It will be well to mention in a few words what it is not before stating what it is. It is not a religion in the practised sense of the word. What I understand by religion is a system and doctrine of worship. As such it recognizes the existence of a divine supreme being and of spirits having control of human destinies, who want to bring man back from the errors of his ways by holding up the fear of everlasting punishment to him, and by promising him everlasting happiness for goodness. One of its cardinal doctrines is that there is such a thing as life after death. I must confess that the thought of the immortality of the soul is pleasant. I wish it were true; I hope it is true; but all the reasoning of Plato can not make it anything more than a strong probability. I am not aware that in the advance of modern science we have advanced one step more from uncertainty than did Plato. It must not be said that Confucius denies the existence of these things, but regards all speculation upon them as useless and impracticable. He would be called an agnostic in these days. 'What is death?' asked a disciple of him, and he replied: 'You don't know life yet; how can you know about death?' Such are the guarded words of Confucius on this subject. Life itself is full of mysteries too deep for human thought to fathom. There is no use in trying to tear apart the veil of death to take a peep at the place beyond. No one has ever been able to add one tittle of evidence concerning the future of man after death and of the world of spirits. Confucius was therefore right in dismissing these subjects without giving a direct answer. Horace Greeley once said: 'Those who discharge promptly and faithfully all their duties to those who still live in the flesh can have but little time for peering into the life beyond the grave. It is better to attend to each in its proper order.' This is not an unfair statement of the aim of Confucius. Confucianism undertakes to guide man only through this world. His system is accordingly intensely human and practical. He does not speculate upon what will be after death.

"Let us proceed to examine Confucianism. Man is regarded as an animal endowed with social instincts. He does not live with himself, but seeks the fellowship of man. Out of this fellowship Confucius deduces these relations: Sovereign and subject; parent and child; older and younger brothers; husband and wife; friend and friend.

"The five relations I have referred to comprise all the relations in which a man may find himself in society. To each position are attached proper duties, and the fulfilment of those duties makes one a desirable member of society. Of the five relations, Confucius places special stress upon that of the parent and child. Filial piety may be said to be the pivotal point of his system. A good son must make a loyal subject, a faithful husband, and a trusted friend. The aim of Confucius is to make man a desirable member of society. They have to do good, and to perform the duties of their position. To be good they must practise the five virtues of benevolence, righteousness, propriety, understanding, and truthfulness.

"The virtues of Confucius may be best understood by making comparison with the founder of the Christian religion. Christ said, 'And unto him that smiteth thee on one cheek, also offer the other; and him that taketh away thy cloak, forbid not to take thy coat also.' This seems to me to be meekness with a vengeance. I am inclined to think that no sensible man has ever acted up to the letter of these injunctions. They are not applicable to human society. Whoever smites one is a dangerous person and does not need an invitation for him to proceed to smite the other cheek. A man who would take away your coat is a thief, and if he had the chance would take away your cloak also without saying as much as 'By your leave.' I perceive that there is not a disposition on the part of men and women in this country to take these words of Christ in their literal sense. It is better for the world that these words should be more honored in the breach than in the observance. I think the teaching of Confucius is in more accord with reason. Confucius says: 'Do not quarrel with those who offend you.' This is all that good sense requires. Christ says: 'Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you.' These, I must confess, are noble and grand statements, but such a standard of moral excellence is too high for frail humanity.

There is no likelihood that men of this world will ever attain to it. Christian nations fall far short of it. Love your enemies, Christ commands; but at this very moment some missionaries are crying out for vengeance and blood, and Christian armies are burning houses and villages, sparing neither age nor sex in their indiscriminate slaughter, and are carrying away everything they can lay their hands upon. What a vast gulf there is between profession and practise! But in any case what is required by Christ's commands is difficult of performance. I ask you if you could love anybody who killed your father or mother? I have never yet met one who acted up to that injunction. Confucius does not demand so much. The question was asked him if he would requite injury with kindness, and he said: 'Requite kindness kindly, and injury with justice.' By saying that injury should be requited with justice, he meant that the requital should be just, fair, and right; but he does not sanction retaliation, much less vengeance, in a vindictive spirit, as is sometimes done by people professing to follow the tenets of Christianity.

"A most striking instance in which the minds of Christ and Confucius are as one is to be found in the enunciation of the golden rule. Christ said: 'Do unto others as ye would they should do unto you.' Confucius says: 'Don't do to others what you don't want done to yourself.' This was enunciated five hundred years before Christ, and tho it is in the negative form, when you come to examine it there is not much difference. Some hairsplitters have tried to make out that these two forms do not express the same idea; but I consider that the difference in wording is merely nominal. At any rate, the spirit is the same, and any one who acts up to it, whether a professed Christian or a Confucian, is a truly good man. So far as this world is concerned, Confucius and Christ tread in the same direction, and principally in the same path. A good Christian is a good Confucian and a good Confucian is a good Christian. Men following Confucius are certainly entitled to happiness in the great hereafter. I don't believe that heaven is an exclusive place, and tho Christians, Taoists, Buddhists, and others try to appropriate it and to make a private park of it for their respective adherents, my opinion is that it is a place with many ladders leading to it, and that any one who has done good in life will be able to go up one of those ladders and enjoy the happiness that should come to him. It is a place for all good men, irrespective of doctrines and creeds. A Confucian who leads an upright and useful and good life will go there as quickly as those of any other religion. . . . The crowning glory of Confucianism is that it teaches man to do good for the sake of good. It promises no reward and threatens no punishment. Confucius simply says, do good because it is good. Naturally, happiness comes to a man for being good, as a matter of course; but Christianity makes it a motive for being good. That is the difference between Confucianism and all other systems, for other systems hold up constantly glorious rewards for being good and severe punishment for being bad. Confucius alone teaches that goodness is a sufficient reward in itself. I admit that the teaching of Confucius is not so catching and fascinating as the other teachings, because it does not hold out a reward to those who practise its doctrine. But let me ask you, if you give a beggar some money do you expect a return or reward from him? If you give money to charity, do you expect something to return to you from the charity you gave it to? I tell you Confucianism is the highest form of civilization and morality, altho, as I have said, it is not so taking and fascinating as other religions.

"The world is gradually coming round to the teachings of Confucius. One of the signs of this is the growing agnosticism of the age, and the progress of science has compelled the abandonment of any religious theories. There has come a modification of the fire-and-brimstone ideas of bygone ages. I do not know if people become more callous as they become more civilized, but it is a fact that they no longer tremble with fear at the fire and all the terrors under the world as pictured to them by the pulpit. That is agnosticism, fostered by science, and the world's thought at the present day is drifting, tho unconsciously, toward Confucianism.

"Confucianism has taken root in Japan and in Korea also. Its spread is not the result of armed conquest or excessive propaganda. Neither the sword nor the missionary is ever employed to gain for it a single adherent. No trail of blood marks its progress. Missionaries have not been sent to other nations urg-

ing people to embrace Confucianism or to make war in order to compel people to embrace that religion. Confucianism appeals to human sympathy, human interests, and human aspirations. It is a power for mankind not through force and terror, but through voluntary submission of the heart."

Upon this address the *Chicago Times-Herald* (December 11) remarks:

"The address on religion which the Chinese minister delivered in New York will serve to illustrate the very great difficulty of proselyting in the Flowery Kingdom. In the first place it is to be noted that its tone is as superior as the one which we and all civilized people adopt toward the Orientals. Mr. Wu is not cast into the slough of national humiliation by the wonders of Washington. He is still the calm, imperturbable, thoroughly self-satisfied Chinese, and his new experience confirms him in his old beliefs. . . .

"It does not follow, of course, from the sting of such criticism that the Chinese are what they believe themselves to be. The most intelligent of them are, in fact, the slaves of the grossest superstition, and many of their practises are repellent to humanity and to common sense. But they are not savages, and in spite of the dark spots in their minds they have an intellectual keenness and stubbornness combined with that national self-righteousness which makes the problem of converting the 400,000,000 a tremendous one indeed."

The *Philadelphia Bulletin* (December 10) says:

"The sense of slight shock which Christians in the United States may receive from Wu's criticisms, carefully and philosophically expressed tho they are, may at least cause them to appreciate the feelings of the Chinese multitude—to whom their religion is as sacred as ours is to us—when the Chinese find it systematically condemned by European and American religious propagandas which are often neither careful nor philosophic in their zeal. And the situation might be still more appreciated if instead of our polite and smiling Wu there were hundreds or thousands of Chinamen among us sent thither expressly to uphold the Confucian system and to disparage Christianity in the highways and byways."

The *Philadelphia Presbyterian* (December 19), in speaking of Confucianism and other non-Christian religions, says:

"Over against their terrible emptiness and failures stands Christianity with its God of heaven and of earth, with its redeeming Christ, with its sanctifying Spirit, with its Bible as an infallible rule of faith and practise, with its sacraments and church-ministries, with its tenders of grace for life and death, and with its celestial rewards. It is designed for all human creatures and relations, and wherever it is allowed free and full scope, it proves uplifting, beneficent, and saving in all phases of existence here and hereafter. Our Chinese critic evinces the darkened and perplexed mind of heathendom when he comes to deal with the soul's immortality. He speaks of it as a 'pleasant thing to contemplate,' and 'wishes it were true,' but it remains an enigma to him. His religion throws no certain light upon it. He assures us that 'Confucius would be called now an agnostic,' as the best this sage could say was that 'there were four things to be avoided: extraordinary things, feats of strength, disorder, and spiritual things.' But just here Christianity joins issue with him. It 'brings life and immortality to light.' It deals with marvels. It establishes itself by supernatural revelations and attestations. It produces miracles of faith and delights in extraordinary accomplishments. It insures resurrection to the body and glorification to the soul. It turns disorders into harmonies. It develops, ennobles, purifies, and perfects the spiritual."

The *New York Truth-Seeker* (Free-Thought) says:

"Like most religionists, Wu is a sectarian. He will find, probably, that Confucianism will be left in the heap with other religions, for the sentiments he ascribes to it are but the human expression common to all races and not peculiar to Confucius or the Chinese. At the same time a religion which should confine itself to these humane sentiments would have an infinite superi-

ority over Christianity, whose seer came to bring war and not to do good."

Mr. Wu has since denied that he intended any attack upon Christianity, and claims that the total purport of his address is not made clear by the press reports. He says, as quoted in the telegraphic reports:

"My theme was Confucius. The doctrines of Confucius are imperfectly understood in this country by people, and my task was to make clear, in as succinct a manner as possible, without taking too much time, the cardinal points of Confucianism. In order to make it clear to an American audience I chose the best form of religion, and that is Christianity, which was well known in this country, and which is considered the highest form of religion ever known, to be the standard by which comparison can be made, and I tried to compare the doctrine of Confucianism with the superior form of religion. It was not my intention to make an attack on Christianity. Taking that as the standard instead of being considered an attack should be considered a compliment."

IS THE LAND OF LUTHER BECOMING ROMAN CATHOLIC?

SINCE Bismarck "went to Canossa" and the Pope triumphed over the most astute diplomatist of the century, the Center or Roman Catholic Party in Germany has occupied a position of very great political influence, and on the whole Roman Catholicism has made some notable gains in the empire. A writer in the *New York Observer* (Presb.) thinks, however, that Protestantism, in spite of some occasional setbacks, is more than holding its own. But he says:

"There is perhaps one dark spot in the outlook—in Saxony. Here in the country where Luther was born, and where his wonderful Reformation work was begun, there is a singular tendency among the members of the oldest aristocratic families to join the church of Rome. Whole families have gone over to Rome, families bearing names illustrious in the history of the Reformation. The reason is probably not far to seek. The royal house is zealously Catholic, and the King, now an aged man and no longer in the prime of mental vigor, shows a distinct inclination to fill all offices around his person and wherever his influence extends with members of the Roman community. A near relative of the king's, Prince Max of Saxony, was recently consecrated a priest of the Catholic Church. This young man's influence among the Saxon nobles, especially among the ladies, is enormous, and it is probably these royal and court intrigues which are responsible for many of the recent conversions. German Protestant associations are much concerned at the feebleness of the Saxon nobles, and on more than one occasion recently earnest appeals have been addressed to them conjuring them not to forget the faith of their forefathers, and to remain true to the principles of the evangelical faith."

On the other hand, the Rev. Walter Elliott, one of the best known of the Paulist Fathers, in a sermon which lately attracted considerable notice, takes the view that there is a well-defined movement toward the Roman Catholic Church in all the Germanic races, including the inhabitants of Scandinavia and the Low Countries. Of the movement in Norway and Sweden, where several prominent authors and scholars have lately become Roman Catholics, we have recently spoken. Concerning the Netherlands and the German empire, Father Elliott thus speaks (we quote from the *New York Catholic News*, December 15):

"The only really live religion in Germany and Holland is the Catholic. In both countries the non-Catholic mind is wavering in doctrine; the situation is worse than that among the higher intellectual circles. But the Catholic clergy and people are absolutely enthusiastic in their faith. They are in a position to win many converts."

"No foreign brethren of ours are more interesting than the German Catholics, for a large part of our American Catholics are of German blood, among the firmest and most zealous in the

world. In 1871 the German empire challenged the Catholic religion to battle. Bismarck and William I., after conquering Austria and France at Sadowa and Sedan, undertook to conquer Rome. Catholic colleges and seminaries were closed, the religious orders were suppressed, eight bishops and 1,800 priests were imprisoned or exiled, and Protestantism universally applauded this latter-day oppression of conscience. The outcome of this battle of brute force against mind, of soldiers against worshippers, of prisons against churches, has been that the German Church has advanced to the front rank. In the fight for liberty of conscience, liberty of education and political liberty, the German Catholics have whipped the biggest military machine in the world. The gentle Teutonic soul, longing for God, conquered the ugly helmeted Teutonic barbarian and drove him to Canossa.

"Politically the German Catholics are the Centrum. They are the center of the nation. About them circle all affairs of national interest. They indeed love their new nation, which they feel to be a nation of the future—a mighty race for war, for commerce, and colonization, princes in learning, speaking a language of giants. The Centrum in saving the Catholic German faith has become the rock of the German empire. It will become the fulcrum for missionary effort, the like of which has not been seen since Boniface planted the cross at Fulda. Already this providential result of the Bismarckian persecution is becoming evident, and the interior inspirations toward winning back to Christ and His Church the noble races of the Rhine and the Elbe are beginning to be felt. There is valid hope that 'God and Fatherland' shall soon become a resistless missionary war-cry."

THE "LETTER OF LENTULUS" AND THE PERSONAL APPEARANCE OF CHRIST.

AN inquiring reader of a metropolitan daily lately asked whether any authentic description of the physical characteristics of Christ has come down to us. In answer, the *New York Times* printed without comment the following well-known letter said to have been written to the Roman senate by Publius Lentulus, "President of the People of Judea in the reign of Tiberius Cæsar":

"There lives at this time in Judea a man of singular virtue, whose name is Jesus Christ, whom the barbarians esteem as a prophet, but his followers love and adore him as the offspring of the immortal God. He calls back the dead from their graves, and heals all sorts of diseases with a word or a touch. He is a tall man and well-shaped, of an amiable and reverend aspect; his hair of a color that can hardly be matched, falling into graceful curls, waving about, and very agreeably couching upon his shoulders, parted on the crown of the head, running as a stream to the front, after the fashion of the Nazarites. His forehead, high, large, and imposing; his cheeks without spot or wrinkle, beautiful with a lovely red. His nose and mouth forming with exquisite symmetry. His beard thick, and of a color suitable to his hair, reaching below his chin, and parting in the middle like a fork. His eyes bright, blue, clear, and serene; look innocent, dignified, manly, and mature. In proportion of body, most perfect and captivating. His hands and arms most delectable to behold. He rebukes with majesty, counsels with mildness; his whole address, whether in word or deed, being eloquent and grave. No man has seen him laugh, yet his manners are exceedingly pleasant; but he has wept frequently in the presence of men. He is temperate, modest, and wise—a man, for his extraordinary beauty and divine perfections, surpassing the children of men in every sense."

Some discussion has been elicited by this letter. Mr. Moncure D. Conway, one of the leading radical American students of religion, writes as follows in the paper already quoted (December 15):

"The Lentulus letter is one of the most successful 'fakes' in the history of religious fraud, because of its beauty. Rossetti's 'Head of Christ,' which has long been my cherished possession, was, I believe, painted under the inspiration of this pretty invention, and if the appearance of Jesus had not been too rigidly conventionalized when it was devised (fifteenth century), no

doubt the pretended letter would have marked its reappearances during its five centuries in other beautiful works. Had it only been as artful as it is artistic it would be the masterpiece of fabrications, and Christian historians might to-day be defending instead of repudiating its pretensions. The old inventor imprudently put Lentulus in a city where no such person ever was, gave him an office that never existed, and made him write about Christ Jesus, an appellation unknown during the lifetime of Jesus and evidently taken from the New Testament. The adventures of the hoax have been tracked by Gabler, Herzog, Dr. Robinson, Schaff, and others, and there is a good summary in McClintock & Strong's 'Cyclopedia.' The original is given in this cyclopedia, and those familiar with Latin will find it amusing and instructive to compare the old letter with what it has become at the close of the nineteenth century, as quoted in your issue of December 8. The 'Son of God' (*vocant filium Dei*) in the first sentence has become 'offspring of the immortal God' (more Romanlike), the 'red beard' has been suppressed, the 'changing and brilliant eyes' are now blue, and a considerable number of adjectives have been added.

"Nothing is more certain to scholars occupied with Christian history, whatever their creeds, than the fact that not one scrap or sentence written during the lifetime of Jesus, by Jew or Gentile, contains any allusion to Him whatever, or even to His existence; also, that of all the writings about Him after His death not one has been traced to a contemporary."

Another writer in *The Times* gives the following information about other alleged descriptions of Christ:

"Another description is found in the works of John of Damascus, in the eighth century, and a third in the church history of Nicephorus, fourteenth century. Besides these traditions may be mentioned the two so-called pictures of Christ—that sent by Him to King Abgarus and that imprinted on the handkerchief of Veronica. According to the legend, St. Veronica was a pious woman of Jerusalem, who when Christ passed by her on His way to Golgotha, took off her head covering and handed it to Him in order that He might wipe the blood and sweat from His face, and when He returned the cloth His features had become impressed upon it. Isn't this the first account of instantaneous photography on record?"

Still another writer remarks that "up to this time there has been made no discovery of any drawing, painted portrait, bas-relief, statue, bust, stamp on coin, or written description of Christ of which there is any truth whatever of its having been done during His life or after His death by any one who saw Him while He was alive."

IS HELL BETTER THAN ANNIHILATION?

THE ancient doctrine of everlasting punishment in hell, which historic Christianity, almost alone among the great religions of the world, has officially held from the days of Athanasius to the present time, has by a certain school been rejected in late years. Dean Farrar and other "Universalists," in or out of the Universalist Church, frankly assert that they believe in "eternal hope"; while the poet Bailey, author of the once world-famous "Festus," taught that even Satan and the aboriginal inhabitants of Sheol would be saved, despite their present recalcitrant state. Another school, far less widely known, and for the most part made up of conservative theologians, adopt the theory of "limited" or "conditional" immortality, to which we have already referred in these columns. Just now there is a discussion in the London *Spectator* as to the relative attractiveness of hell and of annihilation for those who may have no hopes of dwelling in the Elysian abodes—a discussion first started by the recent publication of "The Life and Letters of T. H. Huxley." On Huxley's tomb are engraved the following lines, said to have been written by his wife:

And if there be no meeting past the grave,
If all is darkness, silence, yet 'tis rest.
Be not afraid, ye waiting hearts that weep,
For God still "giveth His beloved sleep."
And if an endless sleep He wills—so best.

Huxley himself, as *The Spectator* points out, preferred "hell (in moderation)" to utter extinction. In commenting on this preference, Mr. F. C. S. Schiller, of the University of Oxford, lately of Cornell, a psychologist of some repute, calls attention to the fact that Huxley's case very forcibly brings out how much we still have to learn concerning men's real feelings toward the prospect of a future life. He writes (in *The Spectator*, November 24):

"Psychologically, of course, such a sentiment appears at first sight a complete paradox. Yet I have no doubt that in Huxley's case it was entirely genuine, and that an appreciable number of persons actually entertain it. On the other hand, I should think, judging by what one hears, that a very considerable number of persons do not want to go on living, and even have a strong emotional horror of the prospect of a future life. They would, consequently, welcome any assurance that exempted them from this doom. This variety of sentiment appears to be very common among the old and weary and unenergetic. It exists quite apart from religious beliefs and scientific convictions, and often indeed runs counter to them. Similarly, a large proportion of sincere Christians regard the prospect of 'heaven' without the slightest enthusiasm, and even with secret aversion. I suspect that what the generality of men would really like would be a (somewhat improved) continuation of their earthly existence. It would be very interesting, therefore, to determine in what proportions these various sentiments actually occur in cultivated persons of the day, and such an inquiry could not fail to throw much light on the emotional foundations of belief and on the strange inefficaciousness all the world over of the traditional doctrines concerning 'the things beyond death.' For whatever these doctrines are, the actual conduct of men is pretty much the same everywhere, and pays but little heed to any eschatology. Can the reason be that all the religions have failed to reach a complete understanding of human feeling on the subject, and so to get a real grip on human motives? The point seems deserving of exact investigation. When, recently, a statistical inquiry into men's actual sentiments with regard to a future life was suggested as an appropriate matter for the Society of Psychical Research to undertake, the late Professor Sidgwick held, I believe, that such inquiry would be useless, on the ground that every rational being *must prefer* heaven to annihilation, and annihilation to hell. Huxley's avowal is sufficient to dispose of this contention, and shows that either men are not rational, or that the subtleties and profundities of human psychology can not be adequately explored by the narrow categories of an abstract logic."

Still another writer in *The Spectator* calls attention to the following curious lines in Thomas Cooper's poem, the "Purgatory of Suicides," written in 1843, in Stafford jail:

Oh! I could brook
The dungeon, tho' eterne!—the Priests' own hell,
Ay, or a thousand hells, in thought, unhook,
Rather than Nothingness! and yet the knell,
I fear, is near that sounds—*To consciousness farewell!*
(Book III., stanza 24.)

RELIGIOUS NOTES.

BISHOP SBARETTI, apparently, is not to leave his see of Havana, even tho' Gomez and his party would prefer a Cuban. The New York *Catholic News* says: "As bishop of Havana he has proven himself to be a man of rare ability, and the fact is that the Cuban people have the greatest respect for him. The Catholics of his diocese have no thought of asking for his removal. They know that nationality makes no difference in the universal church. It is only a handful of Cuban politician without any religious belief at all who are the agitators against Bishop Sbaretti. These men give an exhibition of impertinence by their attempt to interfere in Catholic Church affairs."

In reference to the article on "The Reformed Christian Science Church," reproduced in our columns December 15, Mr. Willard S. Mattox, of the Christian Science Publication Committee for the State of New York, writes us a letter declaring that the new organization referred to "is not a schism of the Church of Christ, Scientist, because it was never a part of the Christian Science Church, and few, if any, of those composing the new sect ever were Christian Scientists." The statement that the Christian Science churches do not give free lectures is also contradicted: "Only last Sunday, December 16, at Carnegie Hall, this [New York] city, Judge Joseph R. Clarkson, of Omaha, spoke before 3,500 people who did not pay a penny to gain admission." Mr. Mattox denies the right of the new organization to the name it has chosen: "Any one who departs from the strict teachings and practises of Christian Science forfeits all right to call himself a Christian Scientist. If Christian Science be true, there can be no Reformed Christian Science, and if it be not true, then why the preservation and perpetuation of the name or any part of a system declared to be false?"

FOREIGN TOPICS.

CANADA AND THE NICARAGUA CANAL.

OUR Canadian neighbors emphatically reject the idea that the United States must control any waterway connecting the Atlantic and Pacific; and the practical refusal of the United States Senate to indorse the terms of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty has aroused a storm of protest across the border. Many papers, like the *Toronto Globe*, accuse the United States of base ingratitude, asserting as an historical fact that Great Britain saved the United States from European interference during the recent war with Spain. The *Winnipeg Tribune* declares that the world can not permit the Nicaragua Canal to become a commercial and political weapon in the hands of Uncle Sam, and the *Toronto Westminster* points to the Suez Canal as a precedent. Very few express themselves as moderately as the *Winnipeg Telegram*, which says:

"At this time, when mutual interests and a better understanding of each other have built up between the two nations a friendly feeling, it would be lamentable if this question should sow anew the seeds of discord. Each nation, it may be hoped, will do its utmost to meet the views of the other, and diplomacy may yet find some solution of the difficulty perfectly satisfactory to both parties."

Saturday Night (Toronto) says:

"The perfidious conduct of the United States Congress in its treatment of the Hay-Pauncefote and the Clayton-Bulwer treaties with regard to the Nicaragua Canal should enlighten Great Britain as to the utter absence of honor which characterizes the representatives of the United States in their dealings with foreign nations. Individually the people of the United States are liable to deal as fairly and honestly with one another and their customers abroad as the individuals of any other nation, but their Congress seems to have a code of honor fashioned upon the ethics of a gypsy horse-trade."

The *Toronto World* is shocked by our manners, our absence of regard for the rights of others, and our alleged contempt for international law, "which," it thinks, "is more binding upon nations to-day than ever." The *Toronto Telegram* says:

"Protests may come quick and fast from the South American republics, which view with alarm the disappearance of the treaty guaranteeing them against the effects of an aggressive policy by either Britain or the United States. When the Clayton-Bulwer treaty goes by the board the United States will be free to annex a few South American republics. Great Britain may oppose the annihilation of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, and the Panama Canal scheme may yet be effectively revived. The United States scheme contemplates a canal one hundred and sixty-five miles in length against the sixty-five mile canal which De Lesseps proposed to build."

There are also hints that Uncle Sam must behave or take a whipping. *Events* (Ottawa) says:

"Are the Americans prepared to fight? There are only two ways by which a treaty of this kind can be abrogated. One is by mutual consent, and the other is by war. As the Americans do not offer Britain anything for her consent to the abrogation of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, and as she would be very foolish to give up so much for nothing, the only thing apparently for the Americans is to fight for it. The affair is very much tangled up, and the trouble is due entirely to American jingoism. As usual, the Yankee wants everything in sight, and he wants it for nothing. For Britain to give in to the extraordinary demands of the Americans would be a deplorable and a dangerous weakness. It would render all her treaties practically worthless if she allowed this one to be canceled without her consent, or even consented to its abrogation without getting a concession of full value in return. The feeling in Great Britain so far as it has found expression is that the Americans must on this occasion be made to toe the mark."

The *Montreal Witness* is rather sorry for the United States for having such a "clownish" Senate. It nevertheless adds:

"In reprobating these unreasonablenesses, however, we have to keep in mind that the law of nations still is that he should take who has the power, and he should keep who can, and that the Senate, in throwing aside every question of right or honor in dealings, is merely asserting in a blunt way a fact which can not very easily be denied, that the United States is a giant and impregnable power that can demand pretty much what it likes, as no one proposes to quarrel with it."

Goldwin Smith, who writes in the *Toronto Weekly Sun*, is inclined to think that John Bull will deal rather gently by us. He says:

"Palmerston, of all ministers the most bellicose, assumed a very menacing attitude in the Trent affair. But then the Amer-



HE PREFERS THE OLD PURSE.

MR. BULL: "Hexcuse me, Sammy, but your huncle John ain't a-purchasing gold bricks at present"

—The Montreal Herald.

icans were at war among themselves, and the union of the British power with the South, the French Emperor being inclined the same way, would have been overpowering for the time. The British Foreign Office will preserve its dignity. Bluster when you do not mean to fight is worse than useless. Great Britain has always done for her own interests and the interests of those under her protection on this side of the water the best that diplomacy could do; she never will do more. The precedent of the Suez Canal, which is under international control, is hardly available in the case of the Nicaraguan Canal. Great Britain did not build that canal; on the contrary, Palmerston, from fear about the approach to India, did all he could to prevent it from being built."

One Reason for China's Decline.—One reason for the failure of the Chinese to become a really great and enduring people is the lack of soul. This is the opinion of Léon Charpentier, who contributes to a recent number of *La Nouvelle Revue* (Paris) a paper on the popular mythology of China. M. Charpentier says:

"Altho the Chinese profess utter indifference as to the dogmas of their three religions, Confucianism, Buddhism, and Taoism, and while they consider the beautiful ethics and philosophy of Confucius as mere good advice, nevertheless the imagination of the Chinese people, deeply influenced by the mysteries of nature and life, has created a swarm of marvelous and powerful

beings, to which are attributed, by the fears and hopes of the believers, a constant and important rôle in the government of the world."

A detailed consideration of the many gods and sacred animals that enter into the daily worship of the people brings M. Charpentier to the following conclusion:

"No people reject all dogma as vigorously as do the Chinese. They concern themselves not at all with the lofty morality of Confucius; yet, at the same time, no race exhibits such abject slavery to a fetishism at once tyrannical and degrading.

"This is why the Chinese, altho they have an immense domain, will never become a really great people. In this vast body there will never be a soul. The ancient Greeks, few in number as they were, must be accounted the noblest race of history. Perhaps Confucius will bear comparison with Plato; but when a society has no noble code of ethics, it will not grow; when it has lost such a code, its period of decadence has begun. The whole question for any nation is to know or not to know how to put into action 'the sublime harmony of beauty and life.'"

—Translation made for THE LITERARY DIGEST.

BEHAVIOR OF THE ALLIES IN CHINA.

REPORTS of outrage, cruelty, and wholesale looting in China by the allied forces still come to hand, tho it is notable that such accounts receive currency chiefly in British and American papers. The correspondent of *The Straits Times* (a British colonial paper), who was in Peking during the entire siege by the European troops, declares that more than 50,000 Chinese men, women, and children, in the ordinary proportion in which they obtain in towns, were killed by the European and Japanese troops after the latter had entered the city. "Babies, children, men, and women," he says, "were indiscriminately bayoneted or shot." The correspondent of *The Daily Express* and *The Sphere* (London), Mr. George Lynch, declares that the savagery was "beyond conception." The Japanese and Americans were least culpable, but "a horrible lust of cruelty has developed throughout the private soldiery of all nationalities." To a representative of the *Kobe Herald*, "to stain the name of the Russian empire with a blot that will prove all but indelible."



RUSSIA: "Open door?—Why certainly, there you are."

—Fischietto, Turin,

ken. . . . The Russians were perpetually committing acts of cruelty. As an instance of what continually occurred I saw them kicking along a little boy of ten or eleven years old like a football. . . . It was impossible to be a member of the expedition without noting the inhumanity exhibited by the Russians as a matter of course. The Russian soldiers were perpetually prodding the Chinese with their bayonets, which they had fixed on their rifles the whole time. . . . It was a notorious fact that fifteen Russian soldiers raped a girl of eleven years old to death. The French soldiers, I am sorry to say, were also exceedingly cruel. Indeed, no nationality was altogether blameless in this

matter. . . . Then you must recollect that it was a war without wounded. Practically no prisoners were taken."

One of the Japanese correspondents at the front (Mr. N. Taguehi, of the *Keizai Zasshi*) says: "Everywhere they [the French and Russian soldiers] went they scattered sorrow and anguish, their footsteps being those of plunderers and ravishers of women when no fighting was going on. Yet they showed themselves on the field of action the most cowardly of all." *The Japan Times* (Tokyo), commenting on the alleged outrages, says: "Such inhuman excesses will remain a lasting reproach to the civilization and honor of the countries to which the cruel brutes belong." "Enough has been done that the world knows of," says



IN STILL WATER THERE IS GOOD FISHING.

—Kladderadatsch, Berlin.

the *Kobe Herald*, "to stain the name of the Russian empire with a blot that will prove all but indelible."

The question of looting by the allied troops is still the subject of severe newspaper comment. Several of the powers—notably Great Britain and the United States—have officially condemned the practice by forbidding their troops to take without remuneration any article from a Chinaman or from a Chinese building. The French Government also has returned unopened a number of cases of plunder sent to President Loubet by General Frey (commander of the French marine forces in China); and Vice-Admiral Alexieff, Russian naval commander, is reported to have ordered his men to make out detailed lists of Chinese property in their possession, stating where such property now is. These orders are, however, it is averred, so easily evaded as to be practically of no effect. "The atmosphere of the city is loot," declares the correspondent of *The Westminster Gazette*:

"Moreover, people who a month ago were most emphatic in their condemnation of the practice are now among the most active in the wild scramble to obtain for nothing or next to nothing almost priceless treasures—the disease is as contagious as smallpox. It started with the soldiers, but it quickly spread until it embraces not only officers and civilians but missionaries and high officials within the Legations. Only a very few have withstood the temptation to loot, and these are inwardly rebellious because their consciences do not allow them to participate in the harvest."

In the interview with the *Kobe Chronicle* already quoted from, Mr. Lynch charges the missionaries with "disgraceful, promiscuous looting, or, at least, profiting from looting." We quote again from the interview:

"The private looting that took place was most successfully exploited by the missionaries. When an effort was made to stop promiscuous looting, every British officer was put on his honor to give an account of any loot that he had, and to return everything except one or two things of trifling value which he was allowed to keep as souvenirs. The looting stopped from that time among the soldiers—that is, private looting. But the missionaries were not bound by this at all. They took possession of big Chinese houses, where they carried on sales of everything they

could seize, engaging their converts to bring them in fresh articles from private houses as purchases depleted their stock. I bought a sable coat myself from a missionary for \$125, after bargaining with him for some days. I sent home a photograph of one of these gentlemen taken in his 'shop' with piles of furs and Buddhas round him and his converts assisting in the selling. He stood amid the Buddhas like a poulterer selling his pheasants. He had a Chinese there valuing the things. The Chinese put on the full value, and the missionary sold them for one third less.

" 'Did they say what the proceeds were for?'

"'Yes. For the good of the 'cause.' The money went straight into their desks.'"

Mr. Lynch promises to publish the portraits of these missionaries when he returns to England. There are several extensive "loot markets" in Northern China. A correspondent of *The Celestial Empire*, speaking of the allied camp near Tientsin, says:

"In every by-street and in the environs of the camps soldiers of all the powers gather in little groups bartering the spoils of war. It is all done very quietly, and apparently is winked at by those in authority. These little extemporized bazars are



A NEW EUROPEAN VOCAL CONCERT.

"We hold fast and true together."

—*Lustige Blätter*, Berlin.

extremely picturesque. Japanese, Americans, Frenchmen, Sikhs, Russians, soldiers of every flag, gather in eager groups, while civilian traders and curio-seekers haggle with them over prices in true Oriental fashion. By far the greater portion of the stuff is practically worthless except, as has been said, for its value as relics."

The American policy with regard to China, as outlined in the President's message, receives rather disparaging comment in the British press. President McKinley's suggestions are anything but definite declares, *The Times* (London). "He is also rather too optimistic as to the final result. Why doesn't he formulate a plan?" *The Standard* holds that "the United States Government has done little to strengthen the alliance. . . . In spite of Mr. McKinley's assurances, it rather acted as a drag upon European diplomacy." The message "contains not one positive suggestion," says *The Daily News*. *The St. James's Gazette* characterizes the President's opinions as "brave words, but entirely without importance." "Obscure and involved verbiage" is the comment of *The Saturday Review*; "the whole trend of the American policy is to leave other nations to do the work by which the United States will benefit." *The Scotsman* (Edinburgh), however, highly approves of the President's references to China, and concludes its comment by saying:

"On all questions of policy and principle to which the message, in its references to China and its future, gives expression, this country will find itself in hearty agreement with the United States."

In an article in the *Revue Diplomatique* (Paris, December 2) P. Coquelle, writing of the so-called Chinese crusade, undertakes

to show that the sole motive of the powers in the war with China is to acquire a market for the surplus railroad material manufactured in the different countries as a result of the concessions granted by the Chinese Government before the outbreak of the trouble. This novel view is presented as follows:

"The question of the missionaries alone would never have led to a collective movement of the Powers. For more than twelve hundred years now the Chinese have massacred missionaries periodically, and the result has each time been excuses on the part of the guilty and the payment of large recompense to the families of the victims. Nor is the crusade for the sake of acquiring land upon which the Occidental nations may empty their surplus population. China is already too thickly populated, with the exception of certain inhospitable regions, for the reception of European colonies. . . . No, the true motive of the crusade is the question of railroads. During recent years the great iron-construction companies of England, Germany, Belgium, and to a certain extent also of France, have produced a considerable quantity of railroad material which has not been disposed of. . . . The Chinese have learned that railroads reduce distances; they use them and are satisfied. The result of this experience was a great quantity of demands for concessions on the part of English, German, French, American, and Belgian companies. All were granted, and the concessions up to the present time amount to some twenty thousand kilometers, which is but one-quarter of the future system of China. One could regard the industry of the civilized world as rescued. The work commenced, notably on the great artery from Peking to Canton. But the mandarins and lettered classes did not regard so favorably as the common people the introduction of the locomotive. They saw that China would gradually become civilized through contact with European inventions, and that the ruling classes would lose their prestige with the loss of their power and riches. In concert with the Empress, whose secret desires corresponded exactly with theirs, they incited the Boxers. The imperial troops sent to suppress the Boxers were defeated according to order, rather than owing to the superiority of the rebels, the work on the railroad was destroyed, the Peking-Taku line torn up, and the Christians massacred or besieged."—*Translation made for THE LITERARY DIGEST.*

THE NEW POLAND.

NATIONS are not born in a day, but neither do they die easily. This is aptly illustrated by the Polish problem, burdened with which Prussia enters the twentieth century, and which will tax all the wisdom of her rulers. Whether or not the Prussian Poles are more harshly oppressed than their brethren elsewhere, there is no doubt that their feeling on the subject is keener, and there has come among them a revival of national ambitions, nurtured by their clergy and strengthened by association. The brilliant qualities of the Poles enable them to obtain advantages in many parts of Germany, and altho the Government is well aware of their growing strength, there is no way to oppose men who do not openly rebel. The *Berliner Korrespondenz* says:

"At the end of 1898 there were 894 Polish associations. Their statutes give as their aims, religious edification, good-fellowship, moral improvement, education and enlightenment, and generally, also, the fight against Socialism. Rarely is the cultivation of the Polish language made the chief aim, and still less is the preservation of Polish characteristics mentioned. Only lately has it been possible to prove the political character of the Sokol' (athletic) clubs; yet it can not be doubted that the majority of these associations form an enormous national organization for political purposes. Their aim is to gather all Polish elements together, to isolate them from their non-Polish fellow citizens, and to arouse their national Polish feeling. A highly developed press assists in the work."

The *National Zeitung* also declares that the Polish press and clubs are and always will be the enemies of the Germans. The peculiarity of the Polish movement lies, however, chiefly in the

fact that the Poles are not confined to parts of former Poland. They spread all over Germany, assimilate to a large extent with the Germans around them, and in their own provinces their places are filled by Poles from Russia and Austria. The *Deutsche Tages-Zeitung* (Berlin) describes the growth of the Polish nationality in the main as follows:

In nearly every province the Poles have increased. In Silesia they have increased from 994,000 to 1,023,000, in Westphalia from 27,000 to 150,000, since 1890. In 1890 Prussia had 3,000,000 Polish-speaking people out of a total of 30,000,000. But most of these then did not aspire to a separate nationality; they regarded themselves as Prussians. The increase of the Poles is not due solely to an excess of births, but to the strong immigration. There is no doubt that the Poles have been strengthened everywhere by the assimilation of purely German elements.

The movement is all the more interesting as it is not connected with territorial complaints. There is no political difference between the provinces largely inhabited by Poles and other parts of Prussia. The Prussian Government has endeavored to increase purely German influence in purely Polish districts by buying up the estates of degenerate Polish nobles, parceling them among German farmers. But the Polish peasant of to-day is as thrifty and careful as the German, and in many cases the holdings have passed into the hands of Polish cottagers, thus increasing the influence of the Polish element. The Poles have at present fourteen seats in the Reichstag.—*Translations made for THE LITERARY DIGEST.*

HOPEFUL SIGNS IN SPAIN.

DESPITE the loss of her colonies and the unsettled condition of her internal administration, there are signs of national recuperation in Spain. The budget, which has just been presented by the Minister of Finance, shows a surplus, for 1900, of 7,930,230 pesetas (\$1,400,000), and an increase of 48,000,000 pesetas (\$9,360,000) in revenue is estimated for next year. The Spanish reviews and journals are also expressing great satisfaction over the results of the Spanish-American Congress (see LITERARY DIGEST, December 8). "It was one of the best things ever done to cement union and permanent concord between the mother country and the Latin peoples on the other side of the Atlantic," is the verdict of *La Ilustración Española y Americana* (Madrid).

Prof. Adolfo Posada, of the University of Oviedo, declares in *La España Moderna* that the congress has been "the initial point for the establishment of better relations between Spain and America, and will certainly correct public opinion in Spain as to conditions in Latin America."

The international position of Spain to-day is not fixed; it is in process of change. But one thing is certain, declares Arthur E. Houghton (of the American legation in Madrid): Spaniards are, unofficially of course, glad to be rid of their colonies. We quote from Mr. Houghton's article in *The International Monthly*:

"When they [the Spanish] talk among themselves about the consequences of the colonial and American wars, they display their characteristic vigor and frankness in confessing that the loss of the colonies is a good riddance. They bitterly charge the colonies with having been a burden on their finances, a constant drain upon their best male population through army, navy, and emigration, a drag upon their resources of every kind, a source of weakness and a clog in Europe. . . . They are of the opinion that the material advantages derived from the colonies by Spanish capital, industries, agriculture, shipping interests, were but a poor set-off against the greater evils of their rule beyond the seas. Their idea is, therefore, after a more or less prolonged period to settle down within their peninsula, become engrossed in the reorganization and development of the abundant resources of their soil and of their mines, to feed their trade in new channels, husbanding and concentrating all their energies and their spirit of enterprise, both in the peninsula and in fields nearer at

hand. . . . They illustrate their modern contention by pointing out, for instance, that their diplomacy will have henceforth not only a better vantage-ground from which to go on trying to induce the Spanish-American republics to consent to closer relations, commercial and political, with the old mother country, now that she has severed all connection with the new world, but also a better starting-point for negotiations such as the Madrid Foreign Office is prosecuting with Minister Storer, to put the commercial and all relations between Spain and the United States on a better footing on the principle of reciprocity of concessions."

In a recent address before the *Ateneo* of Madrid, Señor José Echegaray, who is a statesman and orator as well as the greatest of Spain's living dramatists, gives an analysis of the Spanish character such as has seldom been made by a Spaniard. This address, which he entitles "What Constitutes the Strength of Nations?" is thus summarized in the current number of *Poet Lore*. We quote from it:

"What, think you, has overcome us in the past insurrection and in the past war? Not men, for our men died bravely by sea and land; but science and wealth. . . . If Spain had been rich and able to construct armored cruisers, if great capital had enabled her to cover Cuba with railroads, the insurrection would not have prospered nor should we have opposed to our enemies at Santiago an army of specters. . . . Facts are facts: science superior to ours; industry the most remarkable in the world; wealth untold, immense capital,—these are the elements against which we have fought and before which we have fallen. Our defeat was a foregone conclusion. . . ."

"And in this connection let me point out one signal defect of our race. We are guilty of an incurable social indiscipline, an exaggerated individualism which sterilizes the noblest efforts and the highest faculties. Not that we are more rebellious or ungovernable than other peoples of Europe: ours is a deeper indiscipline of the mind by which we tend fatally toward division, showing that the centrifugal forces within us are enormous. Nobody agrees with anybody else, and each often ends by inconsistency with himself. Wherever a number of our people gather together for social, scientific, artistic, industrial, economic, or political purposes, there arise as many opinions as there are individuals, not a bad thing in itself, but it stands to reason that each should leave the domain of theory and come down to the practical, each ceding something toward a coordinate result. . . . We have a lively imagination, a rapid comprehension; we see much and quickly from the realm of fancy. The variety of our conceptions exceeds perhaps those of any other people of Europe; but it is variety in disorder. Our heads are full of fancies, our horizons are expansive, we entertain a multitude of conflicting ideas; but we know not how to select the principal ones, those which should dominate, or how to subordinate the lesser ones. We are like a piano without pedals, all the strings vibrating at once, and confusion reigns instead of harmony."

CORRESPONDENTS' CORNER.

The Bible and the Trees.

Editor of THE LITERARY DIGEST: In THE LITERARY DIGEST of September 22 (page 344) you quote from Dr. Felix L. Oswald's article on the value of shade-trees, in which he says: "It is a strange fact that not one of the religions of the world gives a word of warning against the folly of forest destruction." He is not well informed in Jewish history, as your readers may learn from Deut. 20:19: "When thou shalt besiege a city a long time, thou shalt not destroy the trees thereof, by forcing an ax against them, and thou shalt not cut them down, for the tree of the field is man's life."

LAMAR, MO.

JOHN BRERETON.

Lutherans and the Epistle of St. James.

Editor of THE LITERARY DIGEST:—One of your correspondents inquires if I can prove that Lutherans of to-day "reject the Epistle of St. James because it contradicts justification by faith alone," his question implying that I have asserted they do.

I answer: Of course not. Nor am I responsible for the statement as quoted. I would not presume to make so categorical an assertion, for it is my conviction that one can seldom tell at any moment just what any Protestant does or does not reject. My words were: "If Lutherans," etc.

Is it not rather amusing to find a Lutheran telling us "The Epistle of St. James does not contradict justification of faith alone?" *Lucus a non lucendo*, no doubt. It is a new proof for the thesis presented in the pages of *The American Ecclesiastical Review*.

As to "Norway, Sweden," etc., your correspondent will find my statement in quotation marks with a reference to the author, page, date, and place of publication of the volume quoted.

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA.
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JOSEPH MCSORLEY, C.S.P.

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BOOKS RECEIVED.

THE LITERARY DIGEST is in receipt of the following books:

Youth's Companion Bird Portfolio.—Drawings by Ernest Seton-Thompson. (Perry Mason Co., \$0.50.)
A Plucky Girl.—Laura T. Meade. (George W. Jacobs & Co., \$1.25.)
Ovid's Selected Works.—Ed. by Frank J. Miller, Ph.D. (American Book Co., \$1.40.)
College Entrance Requirements in English, 1901-1905. (American Book Co., \$1.00.)
Songs of North and South.—Walter Malone. (John P. Morton & Co.)
Dimple Dallas.—Amy E. Blanchard. (George W. Jacobs & Co., \$1.00.)
The Girls of Bonnie Castle.—Izola L. Forrester. (George W. Jacobs & Co., \$1.25.)
Spiritual Knowing or Bible Sunshine.—Theodore F. Seward. (Funk & Wagnalls Co., \$1.00.)
Religious Movements for Social Betterment.—Josiah Strong. (The Baker & Taylor Co., \$0.50.)
The Royal Houses of Israel and Judah.—Rev. George O. Little. (Funk & Wagnalls Co., \$3.00.)

CURRENT POETRY.

With a Copy of Keats.

By FREDERIC LAURENCE KNOWLES.

Like listless lullabies of twilight seas
Heard from still coves, and soft and sad as these:
Such is the echo of his perfect song—
It lives, it lingers long!

Beside his fame Hyperion's luster pales,
Sweeter his own song than his nightingale's;
No voice speaks, in the century that has fled,
So deathless from the dead!

How many stately epics have been tossed
Rudely against Time's shore and wreck'd and lost,
While Keats, the dreaming boy, floats down
Time's sea

His lyric argosy!

—From "On Life's Stairway" (L. C. Page & Co.).

Theocritus.

By OSCAR WILDE.

O Singer of Persephone,
In the dim meadows desolate
Dost thou remember Sicily?
Still through the ivy flits the bee
Where Amaryllis lies in state,
O Singer of Persephone.

Simœtha calls to Hecatē,
And hears the wild dogs at the gate;
Dost thou remember Sicily?

Still by the light and laughing sea
Poor Polypheme bemoans his fate,
O Singer of Persephone.

And still in joyous rivalry
Young Daphnis challenges his mate,
Dost thou remember Sicily?

Slim Lacon keeps a goat for thee,
For thee the jocund shepherds wait;
O Singer of Persephone
Dost thou remember Sicily?

The Millionaire.

By ARTHUR STRINGER.

Wasted and all in rags his starved soul went,
And opulently paupered, he grew old,
And stood with loaded hands and heart forespent,
A beggar, with a million bits of gold.

—Ainslee's Magazine.

The Vintage.

By ARTHUR STRINGER.

Love brewed me drink in the cup o' life
At the tavern of the years.
Love bade me drink to the dregs thereof
And, oh! I found that the brew of Love
Was but the wine of tears!

—Ainslee's Magazine.

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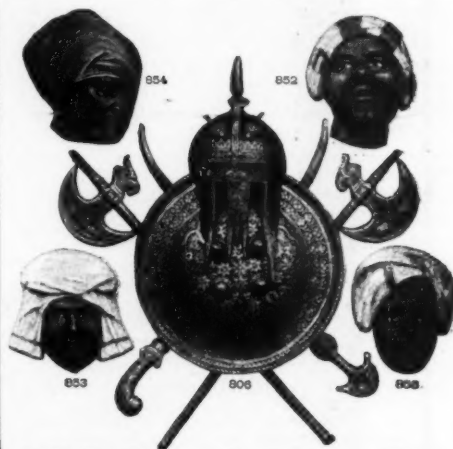
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Current Events.

Foreign.

CHINA.

December 25.—The representatives of the powers at Peking, through the Spanish minister, deliver the joint note to Prince Ching, Li Hung Chang being too ill to attend; it is forwarded immediately to the Empress-Dowager and the Emperor.

December 26.—According to reports, a force of 2,500 Chinese is met by French troops, the Chinese suffering great loss.

December 27.—Emperor Kwang Su strenuously objects to the terms of the joint note calling for the reduction of the forts in China, and permanent legation guards.

December 30.—The Chinese plenipotentiaries in Peking are ordered by the Emperor to sign the preliminary joint note of the powers and to ask for a suspension of hostilities.

SOUTH AFRICA.

December 26.—Cape Town reports that a squadron of yeomanry has been entrapped by the Boers and captured.

December 27.—General DeWet seeks to make his way south, to lend strength to the Cape Colony invasion, but meets continued opposition.

December 29.—Lord Kitchener reports a skirmish at Graylingstad, on the Vaal River, with serious British losses.

Kimberley is reported again to be practically isolated.

Lord Roberts sails from Gibraltar for England.

December 30.—General Kitchener reports that the Boers have surprised the British garrison of Helvetia, on the Delagoa Bay railway. Fresh Boer commandos invade Cape Colony.

OTHER FOREIGN NEWS.

December 24.—The Pope closes the Holy Door in the Basilica, at Rome, which he opened last year; the ceremony is witnessed by 30,000 persons.

General Kodama, governor of Formosa, is appointed Japanese minister of war, replacing General Katuru, who resigns.

Reports state that Celestino Peraza, formerly secretary-general of President Castro of Venezuela, has revolted against the Venezuelan Government, near Lezema, in the Guarico district.

December 25.—The Dowager Lady Churchill dies suddenly in England.

Edmund Barton, former leader of the Federal Convention, accepts the Earl of Hopetoun's offer to form the first cabinet of the Australian Federation.

December 26.—Gilbert Parker, the novelist, starts for Egypt, to study the administration there.

Domestic.

CONGRESS.


December 24.—The War Department decides not to take any further action toward bringing volunteers home from the Philippines until Congress provides regulars to replace them.

December 25.—A race riot breaks out in Centerville, Ind., negroes getting drunk and threatening the white residents.

The Salvation Army gives Christmas dinners to 40,000 persons in New York City.

December 26.—Ex-President Cleveland issues a

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statement that he did not vote for President McKinley.

Moses Coit Tyler, professor of American history in Cornell University, dies in Ithaca.

December 29.—It is announced at the State Department that negotiations for the purchase of the Danish West Indies are practically concluded, and only await the appropriation of the necessary money by Congress.

AMERICAN DEPENDENCIES.

December 24.—*Philippines*: The Filipino Federal party issues an address to the provinces, calling upon the natives to work for peace, and cables to President McKinley an expression of good will.

December 27.—The Philippines Commission sends its completed tariff bill to Washington.

December 28.—Many prominent natives are arrested in Manila as alleged insurgents, under General MacArthur's recent proclamation.

CHESS.

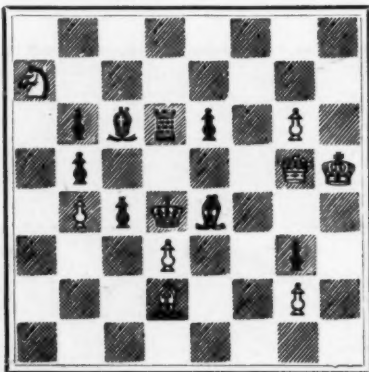
[All communications for this Department should be addressed: "Chess Editor, LITERARY DIGEST."]

Problem 527.

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Black—Eight Pieces.



White—Nine Pieces.

White mates in two moves.

Solution of Problems.

No. 524.

Key-move, B-B 2.

No. 525.		
Kt-B 4	Kt (B 4)-Q 6 ch	Kt-B 5, mate
1. K-B 4	2. K-K 3	3. Q-Q 3, mate
.....
.....	2. K-Kt 3	3. Kt-Q 8, mate
1. K-Q 4	2. Q-Q 3 ch	3. K-K 3

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.....	Kt-K 5, mate
2. K-B 3	3.
Q-K 3 ch	Kt-Q 6, mate
1. K-Q 5	2. K x Kt or-Q 4
.....	Kt-B 5 dbl. ch
1. Kt x Kt	2. Kt-B 4
.....	Kt-K 6, mate
2. K-Q 5	3.
Q-K 5 ch	Kt-Kt 2, mate
1. B-B 6	2. K-Q 6 (must)
.....	Kt-Q 6 dbl. ch
1.	2. K-Q 3, mate
Any other	K-Q 5

Both problems solved by M. W. H., University of Virginia; the Rev. I. W. Bieber, Bethlehem, Pa.; H. W. Barry, Boston; C. R. Oldham, Mounts-ville, W. Va.; the Rev. F. H. Johnston, Tarboro, N. C.; M. Marble, Worcester, Mass.; W. R. Coumbe, Lakeland, Fla.; W. W., Cambridge, Mass.; J. E. Wharton, Sherman, Tex.; A. Knight, Hillsboro, Tex.; G. Patterson, Winnipeg, Can.; F. E. Reid, New York City; D. Schaudt, Corning, Ark.; Dr. O. L. Telling, Independence, Col.; H. A.

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Comments (524): "Trenchant and thorough in theme and treatment"—I. W. B.; "A superb combination. The key develops most surprising depth. B-Kt 3 and R-R 2 are fine 'tries'; the P on R 4, while misleading the expert, prevents a 'cook' by K-R 4"—H. W. B.; "Very fine"—C. R. O.; "The explanation of the key is to enable the R to give mate on Q sq in a certain contingency"—F. H. J.; "Well worth of 1st in any tourney"—M. M.; "Ingenious, and would be even nearer perfection were the key not so apparent from the position of the R"—W. R. C.; "Decidedly good"—W. W.; "A snare for P-R 5 comes within an ace of being the key"—J. E. W.; "A Gordian knot beautifully untied"—A. K.; "Worthy of a prize"—H. W. F.; "Most excellent"—A. De R. M.; "Very good in number of different mates"—P. A. T.; "The variety of Black's moves is unusual"—W. J. L.; "The best one I ever solved"—H. C.

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It is a strange fact that several of our expert solvers were caught by 524, and others who got 524 failed on 525. For 524, almost every imaginable move was tried for the key: R-R 3; R-R 2; P-R 5, and, as several wrote: "Any old move will do." The whole trouble is that you did not see that the Kt on QB 3 can not move. A number send P x P, intending to mate by Q-K 4; but Q x Kt ch stops it, for, Q x Q is not mate; you took the P from K 4, and now the black K can go to Q 4.

BELL'S PROBLEM.

1. B-Kt sq	2. B-B 2	3. B-K sq, mate
Any	Any	

Solved by M. W. H., I. W. B., H. W. B., C. R. O., F. H. J., M. M., W. R. C., W. J. L., G. D., A. K.
This illustrates the "waiting" move.

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In addition to those reported, S. W. S., H. A. S., and F. F. C., got 522 and 523; Miss E. C. Cram, Wilton, N. H., C. Coffin, Portland, Ore., 522; S. W. Shaw, Midnapore, Can., 520 and 521; O. C. Brett, Humboldt, Kan., and C. S. Fisher, Belton, Tex., 523; J. Sleeper, Meriden, N. H., 522. A K. got Reichelm's end-game.

ERRATUM.

The key-move of 520 should be Kt-R 5.

College Chess.

The ninth annual tournament of Columbia, Harvard, Princeton, and Yale was played on Christmas week, resulting in a victory for Columbia. The score:

COLUMBIA.			PRINCETON.		
Falk	2	1	Ely	1½	1½
Keeler	2½	½	Hunt	1½	1½
Schroeder	1½	1½	Henley	1	2
Sewall	2½	½	Weston	2	1
Totals	8½	3½	Totals	6	6

HARVARD.			YALE.		
Perry	1½	1½	Adams	1½	1½
Rice	2½	½	Roberts	1	2
Fotch	1	2	Russ	0	3
Clerk	1	2	Sawin	1	2
Totals	6	6	Totals	3½	8½

The championship has been won six times by Harvard and three times by Columbia.

The second match between Cornell, Brown, and Pennsylvania was won by Cornell. The score:

CORNELL.			BROWN.			PENN.		
Karpinski	3	1	Easton	1	3	Francis	2½	1½
Riedel	2½	1½	Nickless	2½	1½	Chapin	½	3½
Totals	5½	2½	Totals	3½	4½	Total	3	5

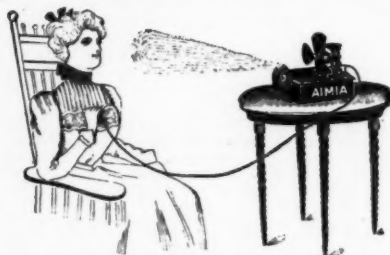
Chess Nuts.

A new Chess-magazine, to be known as *The American Chess-World*, is to be published in New York City. The first number is promised on January 15.

The Masters Lasker, Maroczy, and Marco, during their recent trip through Hungary, stopped at Nagy Teteni, near Buda-Pesth, and were amazed to find a people all of whom played Chess, even the peasants.

In addition to my little book "Electric Light Home" fifth edition, 10 cents, and the wonderful \$1 Electric Motor which I have advertised within these columns for over a year, I recommend for your home my

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James H. Mason, Inventor.

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Men and women, who are broken down in health, are only a part of the thousands who use this popular preparation, the greater number are people who are in fair health but who know that the way to keep well is to keep the digestion perfect and use Stuart's Tablets as regularly as meal time come to insure good digestion and proper assimilation of food.

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Miss Lelia Dively, 4627 Plummer St., Pittsburg, Pa., writes: "I wish everyone to know how grateful I am for Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets. I suffered for a long time and did not know what ailed me. I lost flesh right along until one day I noticed an advertisement of these tablets and immediately bought a 50 cent box at the drug store. I am only on the second box and am gaining in flesh and color. I have at last found something that has reached my ailment."

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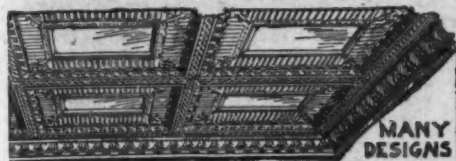


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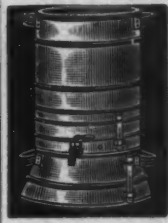


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Formerly.....	2.50	3.00	3.50	4.50	5.00	6.00	6.50
3/4 x 3/4, at.....	\$2.65	3.00	3.50	4.25	5.00	5.50	9.00 10.50
Formerly.....	3.00	3.50	4.50	5.00	6.00	7.50	8.50 12.50 15.00

5/8 Napkins measure 20 to 22 inches; 3/4, 25 to 27 inches.

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2 x 2-yard, at.....	\$2.00	2.50	3.25	3.50	4.00	4.75	5.25
Formerly.....	2.50	3.50	4.00	4.50	5.00	6.00	6.50
2 x 2 1/4-yard, at.....	\$2.50	2.75	3.00	3.25	3.75	4.50	5.75 6.50
Formerly.....	3.00	3.25	3.75	4.25	4.50	5.50	6.00 7.50 8.00
2 x 3 yard, at.....	\$3.00	3.25	3.75	4.50	4.75	5.25	5.75 6.75
Formerly.....	3.50	3.75	5.00	5.50	6.00	6.50	7.50 9.00
2 1/4 x 2 1/4-yard, at.....	\$4.50	5.00	5.75	7.50	8.25	9.00	10.00
Formerly.....	5.50	6.50	7.50	10.00	10.50	12.50	13.50
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